OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE
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GLOOMY NEWS FOR TAXPAYERS

Report by Sue Austin

COUNCIL bosses have issued a gloomy pre-Christmas funding message to householders in Oswestry and Welshpool.

Bosses at Powys County Council have described a 4.1 per cent cut in its annual settlement from the Welsh Assembly as "shocking" – and the reduction has provoked worries of a rise in council tax.

And Shropshire Council bosses have gone one step further by indicating tax bills are set to rise by nearly four per cent each year for the next five years.

Council chiefs in Powys say the latest funding cut means it has lost £22 million in the past three years. Councillor Wynne Jones, said: "It is shocking that the largest, most rural council in Wales, the council with arguably the highest running costs because of its rurality and demographics receives the largest cut. Next year's cut means that the council has had a cumulative reduction in its budget of more than 13 per cent in the last three years."

Worst

Montgomeryshire AM Russell George said: "For nine years in a row, Powys County Council has received one of the worst local government funding settlements from the Welsh Government of all 22 local authorities in Wales. The current system provides councils in urban south Wales with far more attractive financial settlements while the largest, most rural councils such as Powys are among those with the worst cash settlements. Local people throughout Mid Wales will now be bracing themselves to see if their council tax bills have to rise."

Meanwhile Oswestry residents can expect a hike in their council tax.

Shropshire Council's cabinet has approved a proposal that will see its portion of the council tax bill increase by 3.99 per cent for 2016/17.

The authority is also planning for 3.99 per cent rises each year for the following four years – although they will be subject to council approval and the financial circumstances at the time.

Shropshire Council's new leader in waiting Councillor Malcolm Pate, who was due to be officially voted into former Oswestry South Councillor Keith Barrow's old role today (Thursday) said the rise was essential to protect services.

He said: "We have not had an increase for seven years, with hindsight – and it is very easy to say with hindsight – perhaps we should have been increasing the base over the past few years by a small amount.

"We have to be absolutely clear that while central government has policies to sort out the national economy and the deficit, that inevitably means there is less money for local government.

"To deliver the services that the people of Shropshire want and expect the inevitable consequence is that there will be an increase in council tax."

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Even Santa loves a bargain at new Aldi store

Father Christmas takes a look for a bargain during the opening of Oswestry's new Aldi store. Photo: Peter Shah.

WHO'S that shopping in Oswestry's latest supermarket?

It would appear even Father Christmas can't ignore a bargain when he attended the opening of Oswestry's new Aldi store.

More than 200 people lined up outside the store on Shrewsbury Road before it opened its doors on Thursday morning last week to be among the first to grab a bargain.

Eager shoppers braved heavy rain and strong winds to join the queue which started forming at 4.30am.

The shoppers were hoping to be in with the chance to win a prize in a golden ticket draw.

First in the queue was Les Jones, a landscape gardener from Oswestry.

The 62-year-old had been queuing since the early hours of the morning. He said: "It's a bit of atmosphere and I wanted to see what I could win. I like the shop, it looks very good.

"I usually do my shopping on a Sunday but I'll do some while I'm here and her a few things then come back on Sunday for the rest. I'll be using this shop all the time now."

To celebrate the opening, Aldi handed out golden tickets to the first 100 people in the queue, with early bird Mr Jones winning the star prize of a 40 inch HD TV.

Other customers won Bluetooth headphones, Christmas gift packs and a range of other Aldi products.

The shop is the second Aldi to open in Oswestry, adding to the smaller store in Oswald Road. The new shop drew favourable comparisons from the assembled crowds, with many saying they were now planning to do all their shopping at the new store.

Alan Rowney, 69, from College Road, Oswestry, said: "I wanted to see what the store is like. I think it's similar to the one in town. I'm very surprised at the amount of people here. I'm quite impressed.

"We do shop in Aldi already but I will be doing my shopping here now.

"It's easier to get here from College Road and there's lots of variety."

Not only were shoppers treated to a host of bargains, they were also treated to a variety of entertainment laid on to mark the opening of Oswestry's latest supermarket.

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COURTS

Man jailed for two years for £20,000 internet sale scam

A GAMBLING addict who raked in more than £20,000 by offering goods which didn't exist for sale on the internet has been jailed for two years.

Lee Hinchcliffe used websites such as Gumtree, Facebook, Loot, Bargain Pages and Friday Ad for more than a year to advertise items for sale, including iPhones, iPads and concert tickets. Hinchcliffe, 25, of The Willows, Welshpool, admitted five charges of making a false representation by advertising goods for sale that he did not have with a view to receiving payment when he appeared at court on Friday.

He also admitted a further 17 charges put forward by North Wales Police.

Robert Edwards, prosecuting, said: "Once the victim has contacted the defendant arrangements were made for the purchase of the items. Money was paid over but no property was ever received.

"He told police he was running a legitimate business advertising phones for sale but admitted he would sell them before receiving the phones from abroad.

"That was not the case as nobody received a phone."

The court heard Hinchcliffe suffered from an addiction to gambling. Judge Robin Onions told Hinchcliffe: "Over a substantial amount of time you have gained £23,582.78.

"People who lost their money are people who trusted you and had the misfortune to come across you."

BUSINESS

Success for first shopping event

OSWESTRY'S first late night Christmas shopping event has been hailed a success.

The Christmas Retail Experience on Friday was organised by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce bosses in partnership with business students from North Shropshire College. Chamber vice chairman Neil Jenkins, said: "It was on the whole very good. It was a complete experiment and we proved that things could be done and I think next year it will be a bigger and better event. The thing not so good was that we didn't get so many people along. There's no doubt there is scope for an event like this."

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Your festive TV viewing guide

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CONTACT US

Associate Editor: Iain St John:
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Reporter: Pam Kingsley: 01691 668098
pam.kingsley@shropshirestar.co.uk

Reporter: Sue Austin: 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sport: Dave Cooper: 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk

Photographic: 01691 668094

Regional advertising sales manager:
Alison Jukes: 01743 283330
alison.jukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Advertising supervisor:
Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sales representative:
Andy Eilledge: 01691 668090
andy.eilledge@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: 01902 319537
p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

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New role for former boss of council after resignation

Report by Lucy Todman

FORMER Shropshire Council leader Keith Barrow has taken up a new job.

Mr Barrow has become commercial director at newly-launched Oswestry agency BH Inspire.

The former Shirehall chief, who stepped down as Shropshire Council leader on December 4, has taken up his position with immediate effect. Creative director at the agency, Asa Bailey, said: "We're excited to have Keith working with us. He's obviously well-known in the area and is the perfect fit for us while we continue to build the agency."

Mr Barrow, from Trefonen, near Oswestry, joins a team of five which will cover social media, design, marketing, sponsorship, PR and video.

He said: "I'm delighted to be appointed as commercial director at BH Inspire. I had a number of offers after stepping down from the council, but this one excited me the most. BH Inspire is a start-up agency, so I've got the opportunity to make the role my own and have a positive impact on the direction of the business."

The agency is the brainchild of film director Mr Bailey and Mid Wales entrepreneur Mike Harris who wanted to centralise their own business marketing functions.

Mr Bailey added: "We saw a gap in the market, not only to service our own companies, but to offer the same service to others.

"We have all of the creative marketing specialities under one roof, so it's ideal for businesses who don't have that facility in-house. We take on work on a project-by-project basis and we also have clients on a retainer. Our flexibility and the range of expertise we have under one roof is our unique selling point."

Mr Barrow, 62, stepped down from his role at Shropshire Council in a surprise move just weeks after he was found to have breached the council's code of conduct over the declaration of a business interest.

The Shrewsbury and North Shropshire Green Party this week called for an early election to find a new councillor to replace Mr Barrow on Shropshire Council.

Duncan Kerr, a Green Party councillor on Oswestry Town Council, said: "His decision leaves a vacant chair in a council chamber that will shortly be making very important decisions regarding Oswestry's future."

● Changes – See Page 6

New bridge idea revived after flooding

This photograph taken by Vic Smith on Sunday gives an idea of the level of flooding at Llandrinio

LONG term plans to build a new bridge over the River Severn at Llandrinio could be revived.

The current bridge, which dates from the 18th century, was closed during the recent flooding amid fears it could collapse after suffering damage to one of its support pillars.

Engineers from Powys County Council have already carried out a brief survey and are visiting the bridge, which carries the B4393 over the River Severn north of Welshpool, to carry out more detailed surveys now that the waters are starting to recede. The bridge remained closed at the weekend but it is hoped that it may be reopened, albeit with a weight restriction in place.

Llandrinio's Powys County Councillor Graham Brown said the closure of the bridge has revived plans to build a new bridge, although that would come in the long term.

He said: "I have raised the issue of reviving the plans to build a new bridge and they are going to look up the plans.

"I will start the ball rolling on the political side but that is likely to be a very long-term thing." Photographs taken on Sunday show the extent of the flooding in the area.

The photographs were taken by Vic Smith who said he saw several motorists having to turn around after finding the route was closed.

Flood alerts remained in place for the River Severn this week.

Environment Agency spokesman Dave Throup said there were "huge amounts" of water and some roads closed in the Severn Vyrnwy confluence area, although he said the levels were not quite as high as a fortnight ago.

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Hearing is told about care concern

A FARMER who fell off the roof of a barn suffered multiple fractures and died in hospital 10 days later, an inquest was told.

David Pritchard, 68, died of a pulmonary embolism at the Royal University Hospital in Stoke.

Mr Pritchard fell between 18 and 28 feet to the ground at his home at Ifton Hall Farm, St Martins on April 23.

He was flown by air ambulance to Wrexham Maelor Hospital and transferred to Stoke the next day. He died on May 3.

At the inquest his family expressed concern Mr Pritchard had sometimes been without compression stockings and when he was diagnosed with both the c difficile infection and a kidney infection, he was not given intravenous fluids daily.

Consultant Nicholas Neal said: "Not administering intravenous fluids I doubt would have contributed to his death. He was overwhelmed with other problems unfortunately."

Shropshire coroner John Ellery said: "Were fluids checked? That is arguable and were they documented? No. That is not acceptable but the hospital is addressing that. Record keeping was sub-optimal but I can not say that his death was preventable.

"The family has had the opportunity to address their concerns."

Mr Ellery recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Court is told of sex act claim

A MAN has appeared in court charged with performing an indecent act in the presence of a baby and photographing himself doing it.

David Phillip Francis, 60, is also charged with making indecent images and films by downloading them from the internet and distributing them.

Francis, of Bronywaun in Chirk, appeared from custody at a weekend sitting of Flintshire Magistrates Court at Mold on Saturday, facing a total of 11 charges.

Prosecutor Nicola Wyn-Williams applied for a remand in custody and magistrates agreed.

They declined jurisdiction and sent him into custody to appear at a preliminary hearing at Mold Crown Court tomorrow (Friday)

Mark Davies, for Francis, said his client would not indicate pleas at this stage.

Extra funding given to college to ease pressure

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY'S North Shropshire College has been given extra funding to help it cope with a financial problem caused by dwindling numbers of teenagers.

The college has received an "exceptional financial support" grant from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills after a decline in its financial health.

The last 12 months have seen the college suffer a 20 per cent drop in revenue but its costs have remained the same.

Principal Jackie Doodson said since a visit by a further education commissioner early this year the college had made good progress.

The grant to North Shropshire College followed a visit to the college by further education commissioner Dr David Collins. He said the problems stemmed from a lack of curriculum planning, smaller than average group sizes and dwindling numbers going into further education in Shropshire.

Mrs Doodson said: "North Shropshire College respects the work of the FE Commissioner and his team and accepts the findings within the report.

"We found the process supportive to our recovery process.

"Since the commissioner's visit we have made good progress in improving our quality outcomes and we have achieved significant growth in apprenticeships and level 4 students, whilst maintaining a good position on 16-18 learner numbers.

"We are pleased to say that we have already progressed the recommendations within the report. "

There has been a large rise in apprenticeships and a rapid growth of a construction-based complex at the Oswestry campus.

North Shropshire College already had a strong reputation for its land-based courses, hair and beauty, catering and the A-levels that lead students onto university.

The college has added more vocational qualifications available for its 1,100, 16-18 year old students to study.

Colleges across Shropshire are having to cope with falling student figures.

Last month it was revealed that Shrewsbury College, Shrewsbury Sixth Form College and New College in Telford are looking at creating a single sixth form college group.

Children flock to the Santa Trains

Father Christmas was happy to greet youngsters at Oswestry and Llynclys

DOZENS of children have been taking a train ride to visit Santa on Oswestry's heritage railways.

The Cambrian Heritage Railway is having a bumper year of Santa Special trains at its stations in Oswestry and at nearby Llynclys.

In Oswestry on Saturday young visitors rode the train before stepping into the ticket office – transformed into an icy grotto – to meet Father Christmas.

And on Sunday Santa took up residence at a Frozen-themed grotto in a coach at Pen-y-Garreg Halt, with children arriving by train from Llynclys to meet him and collect a present.

Rob Williams, chairman of the railway, said: "Feedback we had over the weekend was that everyone had a really good time.

"We weren't expecting very many people because the weather was so bad, but once people started to come in they didn't stop and we were busy all day.

"There's just one more weekend before Santa has to go back to the North Pole now, but he'll be spending Saturday and Sunday with us and would love to meet more children to hear what they want for Christmas."

Santa Special trains will be running again from Oswestry Station, Oswald Road, on Saturday, and at Llynclys Station on Sunday.

Tickets cost £3 adults and £6 children. Booking is not required for Oswestry, but is for Llynclys so that children can receive a personalised gift. Call 07527 107592 or email events@cambrianrailways.com

Festive food and mulled wine will be available at both stations. Trains will run from about 11am to 4pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A5 collision leads to traffic delays

A MOTORIST had to be cut free from their car after it was involved in a collision on the A5 near Oswestry.

Two vehicles were in collision and one ended up stuck down an embankment.

The accident happened between Gobowen and the Gledrid island at about 3.30pm on Monday.

The police along with the fire service and West Midlands Ambulance Service were at the scene.

Motorists ended up facing long delays and were advised to find alternative routes around the town.

Meanwhile a motorcyclist escaped serious injury when he came off his bike on a busy road near Welshpool.

The accident happened at about 10.25am on Monday on the A458 at Trewern and left the road partially blocked.

Warning over housing plans

CAMPAIGNERS say a housing development in the shadow of Old Oswestry Hillfort will damage Shropshire Council's reputation if approved.

The Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort group says the council will be "forever tainted" if it approves SAMDev – the 10-year housing plan for the county – without any further reviews.

Campaign spokeswoman Kate Clarke said: "If Shropshire Councillors approve the hillfort estate, it will be forever tainted by a bad decision."

The council was due to meet today in Shrewsbury (Thursday) to look at formally adopting SAMDev and campaigners were due to stage a protest in opposition to the inclusion of the homes in the SAMDev document.

Man took his own life, inquest rules

A 28-year-old man took his own life at home, an inquest heard.

Craig Anthony Mcskeane was found dead at a property on Stewart Road in Oswestry on July 1.

An inquest at Shrewsbury's Shirehall heard how high levels of ecstasy and cocaine were found in his system.

The cause of death was hanging and John Ellery, coroner for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, concluded a verdict of suicide whilst the balance of the mind was disturbed.

Foodbanks ready for an increase in demand for help

Report by Pam Kingsley

FOODBANKS across are preparing for increased demand this Christmas as their use across the country is poised to reach record levels this year.

The Trussell Trust, which runs foodbanks in Oswestry, Whitchurch, Newtown, Welshpool and Market Drayton, has received almost £750,000 in extra funding from the Big Lottery Fund to cope with the strain, but it is concerned that its service will still be under pressure from growing numbers of people on low incomes who will face deciding between eating and heating.

Between April and September this year, Trussell foodbanks gave out 506,369 emergency three-day food supplies, compared to 492,641 in the same period last year. December 2014 in particular saw an average increase of more than 50 per cent in referrals to foodbanks compared with other months. David McAuley, the trust's CEO, said: "Every year we meet families who are worried about having anything to eat on Christmas Day, who have been living and sleeping in one room to keep heating costs to the absolute minimum. Foodbank use is likely to rise significantly over the winter months and we're anticipating that it could peak at the highest level yet this Christmas."

Phil Simpson from Oswestry's foodbank, which covers up to Ellesmere, along the Welsh border and down to Llanymynech, said he is expecting an increase in demand in the run-up to Christmas, as in previous years. "Going by the last three years it does always go up in the next few weeks, so we're expecting the demand to rise," he said.

"But we've had a lot of really generous donations recently so we have plenty of food to cope with any extra demand.

"Woodside School donated half a tonne of food at harvest and we had a drive at Tesco in Ellesmere recently which brought in another tonne, including some Christmas treats like mince pies and chocolates that we'll be able to give out.

"Last year in the three weeks leading up to Christmas we had 60 clients, and I'd guessing we'll have about the same this year. We've often seen a drop off in January though – we don't know why, but the demand seems to drop away after Christmas."

Shrewsbury's foodbank, run by the Barnabas Community Church, has launched a number of Christmas initiatives to help it ensure its families can enjoy the festival season. As well as its usual list of suggested foods for the food bank it has a list of special Christmas foods, from stuffing and tinned hams to chocolate logs and boxes of biscuits.

Rankings for schools are released

EIGHT schools from across the Shropshire Council area are celebrating after seeing all of their pupils achieve 100 per cent success in the three Rs.

The schools all saw their key stage two children achieve level four or above in reading, writing and maths. Included in the top list wereBryn Offa Primary School at Pant and Criftins Primary School near Ellesmere. The rankings reveal the performance of about 16,000 primaries in national curriculum tests in reading and maths, as well as teacher assessments of pupils' writing skills. Each school is given a ranking within its own education authority.

In Shropshire, Bryn Offa School was ranked third overall and Criftins was ranked sixth out of the 115 schools which were ranked. Other schools in the Oswestry area included Ellesmere School which was ranked 79th, Gobowen School which was ranked 14th and Holy Trinity School which was ranked 80th. Kinnerley School was ranked 93rd, the Meadows School was ranked 56th and Morda School was ranked 83rd. Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic School was ranked 53rd, St Andrew's School at Nesscliffe was ranked 60th, St John the Baptist School at Ruyton-XI-Town was ranked 28th, St Martins School was ranked 91st, Selattyn School was ranked 19th, Trefonen School was ranked 31st, West Felton School was ranked 46th, Weston Rhyn School was ranked 97th, Whittington School was ranked 48th and Woodside School was ranked 78th.

Amy in 12-day challenge

Super marathon runner Amy Hughes is taking part in a 12-day challenge

MARATHON girl Amy Hughes is stepping out of her comfort zone for a 12 Days of Christmas sports challenge.

The athlete, who last year ran 53 marathons in 53 days, dreamt up the crazy challenge to raise money for her favourite charities and to inspire others to take up sport and exercise.

Olympic and paralympic stars, world champions and television celebrities are among those who are putting the 27-year old from Oswestry through her paces over the 12 days until Christmas Eve.

Money raised from the challenge will be divided between Amy's The 53 Foundation and the Kelly Holmes Foundation.

She began her challenge on Sunday by taking part in the Manchester United Foundation Santa Run, a five kilometre fun run finishing at Old Trafford.

Another challenge will be a dive with Olympic diver Freddie Woodward.

A more sedate challenge will be a golf lesson with top professional and Nike coach, Dan Haughain at the Adlington Golf Centre in Cheshire.

And although in a wheelchair things will certainly not be sedate when Paralympian, Hannah Cockcroft challenges the Shropshire athlete to a wheelchair race.

The challenges will end, weather permitting, on Christmas Eve, when Amy and her boyfriend Dave Keighley will tackle Wales highest peak – Snowdon.

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Man jailed for 15 years for brutal New Year's Day rape

Howard Long

Report by Amy Downward

A MAN who brutally raped a woman as she walked home in the early hours of New Year's Day has been jailed for 15 years.

Howard Long carried out the "terrifying" attack on the woman while she was walking alone from Oswestry along the B5069 near Morda.

He was handed an extended prison sentence by Judge Robin Onions at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Friday in the interest of public safety. Judge Onions also praised a woman who answered the door to the victim at about 3.30am following the attack and immediately raised the alarm. He said he would recommend the woman for a High Sheriff's commendation. Long, 32, of Melverley near Oswestry, had previously changed his plea of not guilty the day before he was due to stand trial at the crown court in July. He admitted rape, attempted rape, and two charges of assault.

Judge Onions described the act as 'terrifying' and said it caused the victim physical and physiological harm.

The court heard Long's DNA was found on the victim's boot and a top Long was wearing had the victim's blood on it.

The court heard part of the victim impact statement where she said: "I wish he admitted he attacked me earlier, I could have moved forward earlier."

Sentencing Long, Judge Onions said: "It was a dark evening with nobody around. It was an isolated area. She was vulnerable as she was on her own. There must have been some degree of planning. In the assault she was hit over the head with her own boot which fell off in the attack. It was a brutal, persistent attack. It must have been a nightmare for her."

Debra White, for Long, said: "His best mitigation is that he did enter a guilty plea before trial which meant the victim did not have to come to court and give evidence. This is not a case with a catalogue of offences. It is a very serious offence but it is one incident."

The court heard that the victim went into Oswestry town centre on New Year's Eve and was in the same pub as the defendant at one point in the evening.

Long was given an extended sentence because of the severity of the case, but will be eligible for parole after serving 11 years and eight months. However he will not be released until considered safe to members of the public by a parole board.

Upon release, Long will also have to sign the Sex Offenders' Register for life.

Police praise brave victim of sex attack

POLICE have praised the victim of rapist Howard Long for coming forward following her horrific ordeal.

The woman has been hailed for her courage that helped bring Long, who was jailed for 15 years on Friday, to justice.

Officers have said they hope the case and sentence will send out a strong message to victims of rape and sexual assault that their cases will be taken seriously by police.

Long raped and assaulted his victim as she walked home on the B5069 between Oswestry and Morda in the early hours of New Year's Day.

Long, 32, of Melverley near Oswestry, admitted rape, attempted rape, and two charges of assault.

Detective Chief Inspector Peter Davies of West Mercia Police, who led the investigation, said: "This was a horrific attack. Howard Long targeted the victim as she made her way home after a night out in Oswestry with friends and proceeded to violently assault her.

"I would like to praise the courage of the victim in coming forward and reporting this attack, helping us to ensure the man responsible was brought to justice.

"I hope the sentence handed out today sends a strong message to the public that rape and sexual offences are taken extremely seriously by West Mercia Police.

"Rape and serious sexual offences are hugely under-reported and this is something we are working to change."

Hugo geared up for fundraiser

Rosie Mortimer, Hugo the dog and Barbara Molesworth are ready for the Christmas fundraiser. Photo: Peter Shah.

FESTIVE jumpers are all the rage this season and one pampered pooch is joining in – to raise money for charity.

Hugo the puppy has his very own special Christmas jumper.

And he will be wearing it to go along to a Save the Children charity day in Whittington, near Oswestry, tomorrow (Friday).

The event is being organised by Barbara Molesworth and friends as part of her annual support of the children's charity.

And although people are encouraged to don a festive jumper, she said the main thing is for people to go along and take part in the day.

"I don't want people to think they can't come along if they have not got a Christmas jumper," she said.

The open day will be held at Garden Croft in Daisy Lane in Whittington from 10am until 6pm.

There will be a bring and buy stall, a raffle and tea, coffee and Christmas biscuits at the event.

"We bought one jumper for Hugo but he grew out of it so he has had another.

"They certainly keep him warm," Mrs Molesworth said.

Over the years Mrs Molesworth and her late husband Doug has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the Save the Children charity.

Mr Molesworth began the fundraising when he was the head of Whittington Primary School and the fundraising efforts have continued.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

It's that time of year again when we are all anxiously waiting for our local postie to come around the corner, weighed down by cards and presents for Christmas. But have you noticed he no longer has that cheery smile to greet you with? Today's postmen, or indeed the growing band of postwomen, are under pressure with their performance being constantly monitored. The Royal Mail was a British institution for generations. We grew up knowing our local postie by name and being as someone brought up on a small country farm his visit was always eagerly awaited and often greeted with a hot cup of tea – or even a cooked breakfast when it was my Uncle Les on the round. One of our regular postmen would take me on the round with him during school holidays, risking disciplinary action for having me in his van and parting with a shiny half-a-crown at the end of the week for my efforts in opening farm gates.

So what went wrong – privatisation of course. For most of its history the Royal Mail has been a public service, operating as a government department or public corporation but the Postal Services Act of 2011 changed all that. Shares were floated in 2013 and in 2015 the Government sold its remaining 30 per cent, ending 499 years of public ownership.

What a sad day that has turned out to be, and what a costly day too, with the price of stamps rocketing. I never thought I would be putting on paper that I agree with Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn but this week I do as he calls for the Royal Mail to be returned to public ownership and vowed it would do just that if he ever got into power.

The Royal Mail has always had an obligation to deliver everyone's mail at the same price but that could easily all end now with a two-tier pricing system an option which would threaten rural services.

There's also a threat to postal workers jobs and pay which Ofcom must address and private companies must not be allowed to cherry pick the most profitable parts of the business and say "to hell" with the rest. You're right Mr Corbyn (there I've said it again) we must stand up for an equal nationwide service.

....

There wasn't much Christmas spirit in Welshpool on Monday from one passer-by, unimpressed at the day-long performance of a street saxophonist and launching a foul-mouthed attack at the bemused performer in front of shocked shoppers.

The sax player was actually very good and extremely professional in not reacting at all to the abuse. Personally in his position I might have found somewhere quite warm to shove the instrument.

Councillor Malcolm Pate was leader of Shropshire County Council for six years

Former Oswestry South Councillor Keith Barrow has stood down as Shropshire Council leader

Councillor Steve Charmley will remain as deputy leader at Shropshire Council

Changes at the top will mean start of a new era

There will be a change of style and leadership at Shropshire Council. SUE AUSTIN finds out more

IT won't be quite like stepping into an old pair of shoes, but when Shropshire Council's new leader take up his position today (Thursday) he won't be a complete stranger to the role, having led the authority's forerunner for six years.

Councillor Malcolm Pate, who represents Albrighton, was the unanimous and unopposed choice of Shropshire Council's Conservative Group as they looked to replace Keith Barrow.

Mr Barrow, Shropshire Council's former high profile leader and councillor for Oswestry South division, tendered his shock resignation two weeks ago.

Councillor Pate was elected at the Conservative group's meeting last week, and with only the formality of his official election at full council today remaining, he has already started on what he openly describes as a "poison chalice" of a role.

The councillor comes backed by a wealth of experience having led Shropshire County Council for six years before it was replaced by the unitary authority in existence today – playing an instrumental role in the adoption of the new model.

However, the financial situation facing the council now is considerably more stark, with Mr Barrow having only launched a consultation over plans to save £77 million from the authority's budget last month.

Councillor Pate said: "I am under no doubt whatsoever, the problems facing us now are very different to the problems that faced the old council and my priority has to be to get the finances in such a situation that we can deliver what services we can."

Change is on it way at Shropshire Council's offices at Shirehall, Shrewsbury

Councillor Steve Charmley, from Whittington near Oswestry, is deputy leader of the Conservative group and had been suggested as a favourite to take over from Mr Barrow.

However the Conservative group's vote means he will retain his current post.

The new leader said he would also be looking to investigate the ramifications of George Osborne's pledge to give councils across the country 100 per cent of business rates they collect.

He said: "The funding from central government is drying up and unfortunately the chancellor said in the autumn statement that we could keep 100 per cent of business rates, but that may actually disadvantage us. At the moment it is taken in and then re-distributed.

"Unfortunately unless Government puts a safety net in we could be big losers in this situation, because of the rural and sparsely populated nature of Shropshire."

Councillor Pate, aged 72, said he would be lobbying the authority's Members of Parliament to make the case with Government and prevent Shropshire losing out under any changes.

Councillor Pate said that while he admired the achievements of his predecessor, he would be looking to adopt his own "consensus style of leadership".

He said: "Keith did a lot of good for the council, he was instrumental in guiding the university, but my style is very different to his.It is more of a consensus politics, the more people you get involved in the decision the more likely it will be that you come to the right one.

"The style of running the council is obviously an individual matter and Shropshire has adopted the strong leadership and cabinet model, but I found when I was last leader of the county council that being consensual and talking to the groups if there was a problem, would allow you to sort the problems and then usually things just passed through the council more simply."

Mr Barrow's resignation came after a council scrutiny committee had asked him to undergo code of conduct training and apologise following his failure to declare a business interest during a meeting of council company ip&e – although an investigation made clear he had not benefited in any way from the omission.

In a statement announcing his resignation Mr Barrow had said he was proud of his time as leader but his motivation had wavered and the council needed time to elect a new leader.

Mr Barrow received warm praise for his work with the council after he announced his resignation.

Shrewsbury and Atcham MP, Daniel Kawczynski, said: "This has been a very, very difficult period for Shropshire Council in terms of them having to cut their cloth to the new financial circumstances. It has been extremely difficult, I think he has done a superb job in growing the council despite what I see as unprecedented difficulties.

"I think he deserves a lot of credit for steering the council though unprecedented financial constraints, it has not been easy."

Councillor Peter Cherrington, mayor of Oswestry, said Mr Barrow completed numerous projects to the benefit of the town.

Mr Barrow was an Oswestry councillor for many years before stepping down.

Councillor Cherrington said: "We must thank Councillor Keith Barrow for his support for the town council over the last six years."

WORKING FOR YOU

Much the most significant event on the last few days, maybe of the year, was the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Summit in Paris.

Formally, it was the 21st annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which is why the summit is also referred to as COP21.

The UN drive for international agreement on a response to climate change began at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

COP1 took place in Berlin in 1995, and the most significant previous Conference of the Parties was in Kyoto in 1997 (COP3). COP22 will be held in Marakesh next year.

The Paris Summit agreement was particularly significant because it brought all countries of the world together (a total of 194 of them) to sign up to the first ever 'global deal' to tackle climate change.

I do accept there remains some dispute about whether 'global warming' is actually happening, and if it is, whether it is due to human activity.

But I think we have to acknowledge that the overwhelming majority of scientific opinion believes it to be a real danger.

It follows that our current generation should take a precautionary approach by decarbonising the way we live.

The basis of the Paris agreement is that all signatory countries of the world will work together to limit increase in global temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius by 2100, compared with the pre-industrialisation global temperatures.

In theory at least, 194 government representatives have gone home from Paris to set about delivering on the agreed commitments.

Easier said than done!

Let's consider what must happen.

Every country must reduce its carbon emissions – at least to the 2 degrees Celsius target, and preferably to nearer 1.5 degrees by 2100; every country will review and strengthen their emission-cutting promises in 2018 and every five years thereafter; the world will reach a 'state of balance' between emissions and creation of 'carbon sinks' (forests, peat bogs etc) by 2050; rich countries will give £100 billion per year to poorer countries to help them adapt to rising sea levels and temperatures; and an effective 'monitoring system' must be agreed to ensure promises are kept.

The Paris Climate Change Agreement will only remain a historic event if the signatories actually do what they have said they will do.

I repeat "Easier said than done"!

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

Advertisement

CAN WE SEPARATE AND STILL MORTGAGE THE FAMILY HOME TO BUY A 2ND HOME FOR MY HUSBAND TO LIVE IN?

Q: My husband has had alcohol and depression problems for years. Our children are now approaching their teens and starting to question his behaviour. He has agreed to separate but won't discuss divorce at this stage. The family home is worth £500k.

We paid off the mortgage with his parental inheritance but he has agreed the children and I can stay in the house so they don't have to move schools. He is 57 but I am only 48, so I can still get a mortgage. We plan to mortgage the family home to fund the purchase of a smaller house for him to live in, with both houses jointly owned. Is this correct or is there a different way of doing it?

A: Until you and your husband have exchanged full and frank financial disclosure and had the opportunity of having legal advice, you should not do anything.

The starting point following separation is for there to be full disclosure of all finances to include income, capital and pension provision. This will give you a sense of what is in the 'matrimonial pot' and will enable you and your lawyer to work out how to split all the assets in a fair way. Interim and piecemeal arrangements should be generally avoided.

Many couples now benefit from entering into family mediation to discuss financial matters once they have separated. Mediation can be a cost effective and amicable way to resolve matters.

Legal advice should always be sought alongside mediation and following any separation, particularly when finances are involved as there are many potential consequences and pitfalls. You may also need advice from an accountant in relation to a possible Capital Gains Tax liability if properties are being sold and/or transferred.

You should seek advice in relation to the separation generally, and divorce, despite your husband's unwillingness to discuss divorce.

This question has been answered by Linda Hill, a Senior Solicitor with GHP Legal.

For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. For Personal Injury and Family matters we offer FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday at our Oswestry office and every Monday at our Wrexham office, 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.

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A&E must be located in Shrewsbury

HAVING followed the recent debate about A&E services in Shropshire and the wasted £2 million that appears to have taken us no further forward I would like to make the following points.

If there really must be just one major A&E service in Shropshire then the geography of the county dictates that it must be located in Shrewsbury.

This would give easier access to all residents in the centre and west of the county and would also help all residents of Powys and Mid Wales – it is a very long way from Newtown to Telford. For those who live in Telford or the east of the county it is not far to Wolverhampton or Stoke hospitals where full services will be available. I do have to challenge the fact that we are being told that the county only requires or can afford one major A&E facility and would like to see more clinical and financial evidence to justify that claim. As a local councillor and member of the Health Scrutiny Committee of Shropshire Council I have seen very little to back up some of the statements being made by various bodies and think the public deserves a more detailed explanation of the finances of health care services in Shropshire and how the money is actually spent.

If some of these bodies could be amalgamated to create one single body to deliver health services to the county I am sure some huge financial savings could be made which could then be spent on actual doctors and nurses and real clinical care.

In the distant past we had Shropshire Area Health Authority who undertook most of the work of delivering health services to the county and perhaps we need to go back to something along similar lines. The money saved may mean that we could then afford an A&E service at both Shrewsbury and Telford.

COUNCILLOR PETER NUTTING
Shrewsbury

Students pictured enjoying 'tea for six'

Look closely and you will see a cross on the girl back right. She is Kath Renshaw, who was one of the first students at Derwen College, near Oswestry. Handwritten on the back of the photo is: "('Tea for Six'). If a winner I should like a spot light torch please. Miss K. Renshaw, Derwen Cripples College, Gobowen..." Presumably it was entered into a competition of some sort.

The country will only get the service that it pays for

ONCE again the TV news shows us pictures of a senior police officer excusing his officers for doing a less than adequate job and tragic pictures of a family torn by grief because of the consequence of that incompetence. People hurt, lives ruined forever, and the reputation of the British police, formerly the envy of the world, in tatters – yet again.

The Care Qualities Commission find shortcomings in the way various duties are performed in various hospitals. The NHS, also, used to be something else to which other counties aspired. The root causes of the inadequacies seem to be very simple.

In any walk of life you only get what you pay for and with a government in charge that cares for nothing other than the success of its own policies, it's hardly surprising that considerable cracks are now beginning to show. Since 2010 the police, and the NHS, like so many other institutions have seen their budgets cut to the bone. How on earth can any right thinking individual expect our service providers, to do their jobs adequately with less and less resources? Honestly the myopia is quite beyond belief.

It matters little what you personally think about Jeremy Corbyn, he's raised awareness that austerity doesn't work for ordinary people. Consequently we as a nation should be concerned as to what will be left in the national store cupboard for the next generation once Cameron and his cowboys have had their way.

KEITH WOOD
Whixall

Deal with China is hypocrisy from our PM Cameron

WHEN Jeremy Corbyn was elected leader of Her Majesty's Opposition with a huge popular vote, David Cameron tweeted that, "The Labour Party is now a threat to our national security, our economic security and your family's security".

Little more than six weeks later the Prime Minster had enthusiastically signed off deals with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China which will see Great Britain lose sovereignty over power production, will compromise our financial services industry with an influx of 'dirty money' from one of the planet's most corrupt economies and will make us beholden to the country with the world's biggest army.

As Shropshire is currently blessed with a full house of Conservative MPs, I wonder if one of them could explain how Cameron can scaremonger the electorate about a Corbyn-led Labour Party whilst kowtowing to China, and still stay on the right side of rank hypocrisy?

CHRIS LEMON
Shrewsbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL
letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Disagree with peer's EU view

LORD Stuart Rose is a businessman. The European Union has been specifically organised by the likes of him to exploit the working man.

He tells us we would not dream of turning our backs on NATO or the UN and ought not to turn our backs on Europe.

Has he already forgotten that, at the behest of the EU Britain shamefully turned its back on our wartime allies Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India etc?

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

House of Lords worked very well on this occasion

THE House of Lords went against Government threats and voted against the immediate imposition of cuts to the tax credits and sent it back to the "other place" for re-consideration.

Well done the House of Lords.

It did exactly what it is supposed to do and scrutinised the legislation from the Commons and saw that it was not good and dealt with it appropriately.

Mr Cameron promised not to cut benefits to the working poor, then he did so, and, not for the first time, showed the uncaring face of Conservatism.

He expected the poorer members of society to instantly adjust to a reduction in benefits before measures designed to mitigate the cuts had been implemented.

If anyone had doubts about the value of the unelected and cheaper second chamber, perhaps now they will appreciate its value.

Incidentally, I do not support any political party in its entirety, so have no political axe to grind.

RICHARD CAMP
Wellington

Proof about fracking work

PERHAPS MP Owen Paterson should do his own research about pollution from fracking regarding air and water pollution instead of relying on facts presented to him by American environmental agency infiltrated by the the fracking industry .

If he was to go on the web he would find plenty of proof that water and air contamination exists but the fracking companies won't cooperate with environmental agencies in America and have also infiltrated them. Pollution has occurred in Australia too but again big business wants to keep it quiet because of the loss of revenues if the truth comes out.

The UK may have a "proud record" in safe fossil fuel extraction mainly in the North Sea but fracking and CBM extraction is a totally different industry altogether, land based involving the use of toxic chemicals

One of the biggest anti-fracking voices is an English former oil executive who worked in the USA and saw the damage both environmentally and human that fracking does, including deaths of workers with cancer who worked as drill operators.

There is masses of information on fracking on the internet so no need to explain about it here.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man injured in attack in town

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after an assault in Oswestry.

Officers say between 2am and 2.15am on Sunday the victim was approached by an unknown man in Chaucer Close.

Holly Claydon-Bevan, corporate communications for West Mercia Police, said: "The victim, a man in his forties, raised his hand to protect his face during a suspected assault, and consequently sustained a deep cut to his finger, believed to be from a sharp instrument. The injury required medical treatment.

"The suspect is believed to be a white man aged between 16 and 25 years old, approximately 5 foot 5 inches tall and of a slim build.

"He was thought to be wearing a black hooded top, dark jeans and dark trainers.

"Following the incident the suspect ran off in the direction of Blackfriars."

Police would like to speak to anyone who may have witnessed to incident or may have any information, to call them on 101.

Supermarket joins petrol price war

ONE of Shropshire's independent supermarkets has joined the current petrol price war with motorists able to fill up for as little as 92.9p per litre of unleaded.

Stans Superstore in St Martins near Oswestry dropped fuel prices on Tuesday to 99.9p for unleaded and £1.06p for diesel. On top of that shoppers who spend £50 in the store itself get an extra 7p a litre reduction.

Partner at Stans Superstore, Andrew Faulks, said that with fuel prices dropping it was good to be able to spread some festive cheer among motorists.

Ministry fails to meet soldier inquest deadline

Report by Sue Austin

THE Ministry of Defence has failed to submit crucial documents before a promised deadline in the case of a young soldier who died at Deepcut Barracks, a court has heard.

Private Cheryl James, from Llangollen, was found with a bullet wound to her head in November 1995, when she was undergoing initial training as an 18-year-old at the Surrey barracks.

She was one of four soldiers who died at the barracks between 1995 and 2002 amid claims of bullying and abuse. Her parents Des and Doreen James, live in Llanymynech, near Oswestry.

A fresh inquest was ordered into Pte James's death after High Court judges quashed an open verdict recorded in December 1995. At a pre-inquest review at Woking Coroner's Court, Mr James, said he was disappointed by the failure of the MoD to supply the documents by the agreed deadline.

Nicholas Moss, representing the MoD, said the sheer volume of the files that were being searched meant much time was taken up deciding which documents were and were not relevant for the inquest, which begins on February 1. He promised all of the relevant documents would be delivered by January 11. Pte James's body was exhumed in August and a post-mortem examination was carried out. "Metallic fragments" were recovered which have been analysed by a ballistics expert, but that report is still to be finalised.

The full inquest, which is expected to last seven weeks, will consider whether a third party was involved in Pte James's death.

College puts on another good show

Derwen College students Laura Tilly and Ryan Jones starred in the college's pantomime

A SPECIALIST college put on a Christmas festive evening combining late night shopping with good food and entertainment for visitors.

Derwen College at Gobowen kept its popular farm shop and garden centre open to allow people the chance to pick up unusual Christmas presents and food for the holidays.

A group of students entertained the shoppers with a signing demonstration.

Allison Heward from the college said its eateries, the coffee shop and Orangerie restaurant, were both open and very busy with people sampling a special Christmas menu.

She said: "Carol singers sang in the restaurant throughout the evening, adding to the atmosphere.

"We also staged our Christmas pantomime. The evening showcased many of the things that our students do.

"All the departments were involved and it was fantastic work experience for the young people."

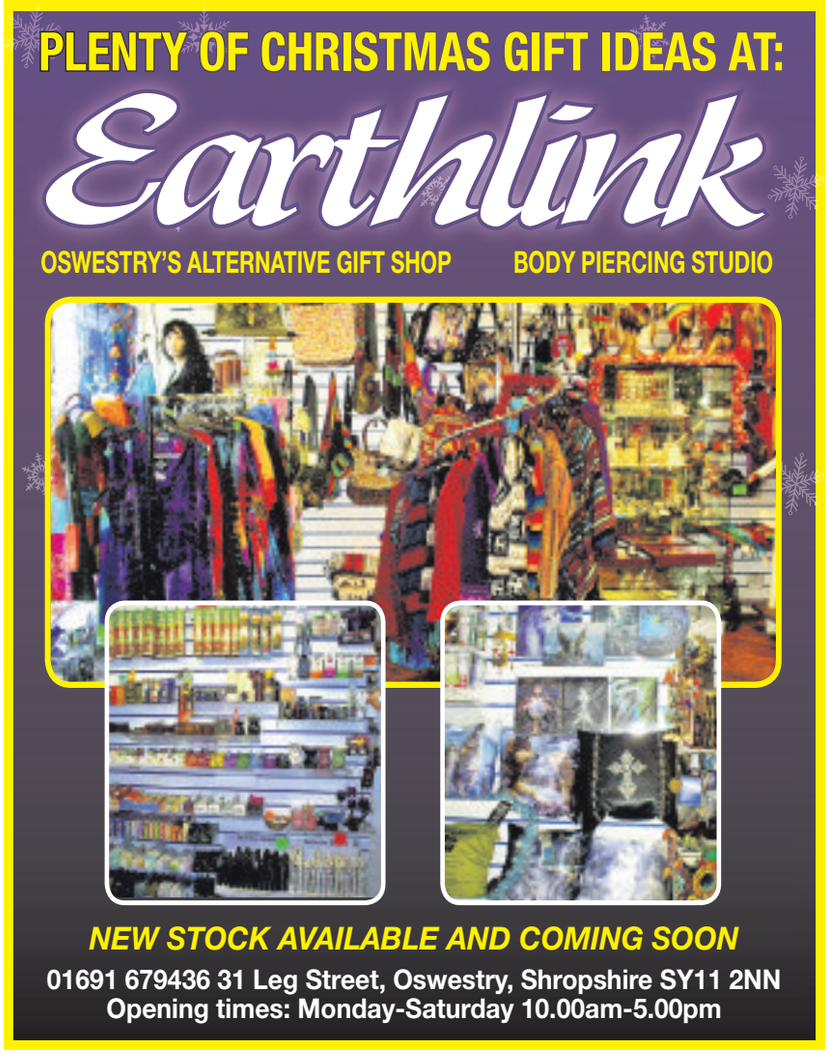
Manjailedfor driving while he had ban from road

A MAN who had been banned from the road for five years but was behind the wheel of a car when it span out of control and crashed has been jailed.

Gavin Paul Humphreys, 33, who had two previous convictions for dangerous driving, got out of the damaged car, collected his property and calmly walked away.

But he had been slightly injured in the impact and DNA from blood in the Vauxhall Vectra showed that he was the driver at the time of the crash, which happened on the A483 at Ruabon.Police arrested him later after a search. Humphreys, of no fixed abode, but who comes from the Oswestry area, admitted his third conviction for dangerous driving, together with offences of disqualified driving, no insurance, failing to stop and failing to report. He was jailed for eight months at Mold Crown Court on Friday, banned from driving for two years and ordered to take an extended re-test.

The court heard how it was rush hour shortly before 9am on August 18 when he was driving down the A483, travelling in the Oswestry area, when he came up behind a line of traffic. The road had at that stage reduced from a dual carriageway to a single carriageway but he pulled out to overtake at speed. His vehicle then fish-tailed out of control and struck an on-coming vehicle, being driven by a young woman who was making her way to work. Judge Rhys Rowlands told him that it was "deliberate risk taking" at excessive speed when he should not have been behind the wheel at all.Henry Hills, for Humphreys, said that his client was currently serving a 20-week prison sentence imposed by magistrates in Shropshire for driving while disqualified.



Man cleared by court jury of kill claim

A 35-year-old Shropshire man has been cleared of making threats to kill his former partner.

Malcolm Salisbury– the legal owner of a shotgun – had been accused of suggesting he would shoot his former partner and one of her work colleagues. The sales representative had denied the charge and was found not guilty by a jury at Stafford Crown Court following a four-day trial.

Salisbury, of Meadow Way, Gobowen, was charged by police following a row with his former partner a year ago. It was alleged he had made a threat to kill the woman, intending that she would fear that the threat would be carried out.

The jury heard the alleged incident happened as the couple's relationship was floundering and followed a weekend Christmas shopping trip.

On December 20 she said they stopped off at the house in Meadow Way and claimed the defendant had said he would shoot her and her friend.

Salisbury had gone upstairs and went into a room he used as an office where the shotgun was kept in a locked cabinet. She had left the house and alerted police.

Solar farm bid goes to planners

A 20,000 panel solar farm in the countryside near Oswestry is being recommended for approval by planning chiefs.

The plans by Elgin Energy Esco Ltd for the solar farm at Rhosygadfa are to go before Shropshire Council's north planning committee on Tuesday. The plans have attracted objections including an objection from Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council.

Griffin Inn is right at the heart of community

WE MEAN BUSINESS

THE Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign celebrates Oswestry's businesses. This week we celebrate The Griffin Inn.

The Griffin Inn is a traditional pub and has been run by Gary and Carol Brennan for the last four-and-a-half years.

He said it was important for pubs to be at the heart of their communities.

He said: "I am a firm believer that all local businesses should support each other, if this occurs we are in a win/win situation. We should all buy local where we can and support each other.

"All our food is locally sourced, our meat is supplied by Hartshorn's Butchers for example. The food is freshly prepared by our head chef Sharon and we focus on good homemade food which is value for money and locally sourced.

"We always have four real ales on tap and our main ale is Stonehouse Brewery's Station Bitter. On a Wednesday night we have a team in the Oswestry Quiz League and we have a Vinyl Night where people can come along and have a slot to play their own records. On a Thursday night we have an open mic and acoustic night, hosted by Canadian singer-songwriter Chris Greve, showcasing the very best talent in Oswestry and beyond. On Friday nights we have two teams in the Oswestry Darts League."

Gary Brennan's Griffin Inn pub is an important part of the community in Oswestry

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman denies robbery allegation

A WOMAN has denied robbing a man of two bottles of whiskey at a shop earlier this year.

Hayley Sudlow, 32, appeared at a plea and directions hearing at Mold Crown Court on Friday via a video link from Styal Women's Prison in Cheshire.

She pleaded not guilty to the robbery at The Greatorex Sore at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, near Oswestry, on April 22 this year.

Sudlow, of Queen Elizabeth Close, Oswestry, also denied stealing a Colt 35 revolver in February.

Judge Rhys Rowlands remanded her in custody pending a trial in March of next year.

The crown court was told that a co-defendant had already admitted the charges.

Defendant Alan McNeill, 27, of Fairclough Road, Huyton in Liverpool, has previously been remanded in custody.

He will be sentenced at the end of Sudlow's trial.

Suspended term for knife incident

A TEENAGER has been handed a suspended custodial sentence for waving a knife around and threatening three people in a church.

Steven William Carlisle, 18, of Saville Close, Wellington, had admitted possessing a knife in a public place and using threatening behaviour. He made threats while waving a knife around in Trelystan Church, Forden, near Welshpool, on September 2.

Magistrates sentenced him to six weeks in custody, suspended for 12 months, with a 30 days rehabilitation activity requirement. They ordered him to pay a £180 courts charge and an £80 victim surcharge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

McCartneys win top Welsh prize

AN estate agency with branches in Shropshire and Mid Wales has won a national award.

McCartneys has been named Wales Estate Agency of the Year 2015.

The firm won the award at the Estate Agency of the Year Awards.

The company, which has branches in Welshpool, Newtown, Church Stretton and Ludlow, was presented with the award at a ceremony in London.

Tom Carter, from McCartneys, said: "We are absolutely over the moon to have won best agency in Wales. I am so pleased that all the hard work, the extensive marketing and the quality service that we are offering our clients here in Mid Wales has been recognised on a national level."

NHS staff praised in festive message

WELSH Government Ministers have praised the "modern miracle" of the care NHS and social service staff deliver across the country in their annual Christmas message.

Health and social services minister Mark Drakeford and deputy minister for health Vaughan Gething have thanked Wales's 150,000 NHS and social care staff for their continued hard work in providing excellent standards of care.

Mr Drakeford said: "The dedication and commitment of our health and social services staff is exceptional. Despite the all the pressures on both the NHS and social care, they go on being a modern miracle, delivering care and treatment that not so long ago would have been unthinkable."

Prompt action 'averted environmental incident'

Report by Sue Austin

AN accident in which a milk tanker overturned could have led to a serious environmental incident threatening fish and other wildlife, it has been claimed.

Mid and West Wales Fire Service has praised the partnership working between its firefighters and Natural Resources Wales in making sure the milk did not get into watercourses nearby.

The milk tanker carrying 28,000 litres of milk left the road and rolled on to its side in a field close to Buttington, near Welshpool, on Wednesday last week.

Two fire appliances from Welshpool plus the environmental protection unit and a support appliance from Newtown went to the scene. Group Manager Steve Rowlands, head of response for north Powys for Mid and West Wales Fire Service, said: "Thankfully, the driver of the vehicle escaped with only minor injuries, however, the concern for the emergency responders was the large amount of milk that was contained within the tanker.

"It is not often recognised that milk can have a significant polluting effect on water if allowed to reach rivers or streams. It can be as much as 400 times more polluting than untreated domestic sewage. With this in mind firefighters in partnership with Natural Resources Wales carried out emergency measures to ensure that the milk could not escape, reducing the potential damage to the environment."

The milk tanker crashed close to Buttington near Welshpool

Lib Dems in vote vow on class sizes

THE Welsh Liberal Democrats have pledged to deliver smaller class sizes in Powys as one of their key policies for the Assembly elections in the spring.

William Powell, assembly member for Mid & West Wales, said the party would work to ensure that infant classes normally contain no more than 25 pupils, prioritising the largest classes first.

More than 71,740 infant pupils in Wales are currently taught in classes of 25 or more, and 59 per cent of infant classes have more than 25 pupils.

Mr Powell said: "Parents' views have been ignored for too long. Time after time I speak to understandably worried parents whose main priority is for their children to be taught in smaller classes.

"In Powys there are 64 classes with over 25 pupils and 1,848 pupils being taught in those classes. We need to tackle this.

"This is all about giving teachers the time to do what they do best – teach. They would be under less pressure as they would have more time to give children individual attention and improve the quality of lessons."

Care companies announce deal

TWO Welsh care agencies have announced they have merged.

Caredig has joined forces with Abacare and is now looking after around 1,000 vulnerable and/or elderly in the area.

Care firm Abacare has a base in Newtown.

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Aldi opened its doors to more than 200 queuing customers

Golden ticket star prize winner Les Jones with store manager Debbie Gibbons

Yoland Graham cuts the ribbon to officially open the store

New Aldi now open

Report by Pam Kingsley

MORE than 200 people braved heavy rain and strong winds to queue for the opening of Oswestry's new Aldi store.

Queues of shoppers gathered outside the new store in Shrewsbury Road to be in with the chance to win a prize in a golden ticket draw.

First in the queue on Thursday morning was Les Jones, a landscape gardener from Oswestry, who won a 40inch HD TV.

Other customers won Bluetooth headphones, Christmas gift packs and a range of other Aldi products.

The shop is the second Aldi to open in Oswestry, adding to the smaller store in Oswald Road

Before the opening, entertainment was provided by Circus Frank, performing magic and circus tricks, and Father Christmas, while staff supplied the waiting shoppers with mince pies and chocolates.

The official opening was carried out by local resident Yoland Graham, who used to live on the site, with store manager Debbie Gibbons and the Morton Minors children's choir, comprised of pupils from Bryn Offa CE Primary School and The Marches School. The Porthywaen Silver Band played festive music throughout the morning and complimentary sausage and bacon sandwiches were handed out. Store manager Debbie Gibbons said: "Today has been a great success and the team and I were pleased to see so many customers turn out on opening day."

The opening has created 30 new jobs, and the company is still recruiting for assistant store managers, deputy store managers, store assistants and stock assistants.

In September the company revealed plans for up to six new stores across Shropshire as part of a £600 million expansion.

Store manager Debbie Gibbons gives Les Jones his golden ticket

The Aldi team celebrates the opening of the firm's second Oswestry store

Children from Bryn Offa School and The Marches watch the entertainer Circus Frank

Circus Frank entertained the crowds

Children from Bryn Offa School and the Marches School sung carols at the opening

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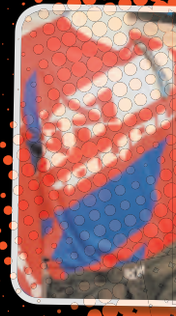

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Period property with lovely accommodation

A wonderful period property with delightful accommodation and many period features, Ty Pant, Selattyn, Oswestry lies in an imposing position set within around 12 acres with glorious distant views.

In a lovely location with ample parking, it is for sale through Halls at £725,000 with no chain. It has a kitchen/dining room with deep granite worktops and complementary splash-backs, a double oven with four ring hob over, Aga with double oven, a lounge with solid oak flooring, a feature fireplace with a Clear View multi fuel stove set in a chimney breast with a bream over, a family room with oak flooring and French doors to a balcony and exposed roof truss and ceiling timbers. There is a sun room and French doors to a balcony running along three sides, a hall, dining room with exposed ceiling timbers and a log burning stove, an office, five bedrooms (including a mezzanine master bedroom with en-suite shower room and a dressing room), with some feature beams, a bathroom, spiral staircase down to a utility, cloakroom, hobby room, cottage gardens and land. For further information contact Halls on 01691 670320 or visit www.hallsgb.com

Attractive Victorian home is handy for shopping area

An attractive Victorian end-of-terrace house with loft room, 16 Vyrnwy Road, Oswestry is on the market through JJ Dell & Co for offers over £124,950. The property is within walking distance of Oswestry's shopping centre. Accommodation comprises two reception rooms, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, modern bathroom and loft. There is a rear garden. The property is within walking distance of Woodside Primary School. Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.

Fine detached bungalow sits on the outskirts of popular village

A fine detached bungalow on the outskirts of a village, Oakdene, Oak Farm Lane, West Felton can be found down a quiet country lane. Set well back from the road and with a tarmacadam driveway with ample parking, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co with offers in the region of £259,500. It has a porch and entrance hall, living room, a modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a shower room. The front garden has a lawn and ornamental pool and the private rear garden has a lawn. For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk

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- Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

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Morda **£190,000**

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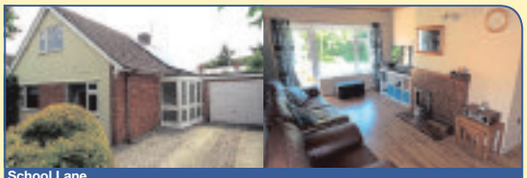
- Utility, Cloakroom, Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden with patio, Driveway parking and garage
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating C



School Lane
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- 4 Bedroom Link Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen
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- Lounge and 2 further First Floor Bedrooms
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- Well presented & spacious 3/4 Bedroom Townhouse
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- Cloakroom, Study/Bedroom 4
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Henley Drive
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- Immaculate 3 Bed Detached Property
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- uPVC D/G, gas central heating, EPC Rating C

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Llangedwyn **£169,995**

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- Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout. EPC rating

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Oswestry **£149,995**

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- UPVC D/G, gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Churchfields
St Martins **£129,995**

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- Utility, Cloaks, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Drive & garage with good size rear garden
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating C

Abraham Court
Oswestry **£117,000**

- Well positioned 2 Bed 1st Floor Retirement Apartment
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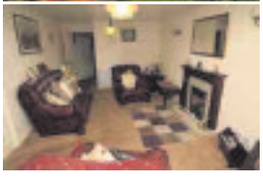
OSWESTRY



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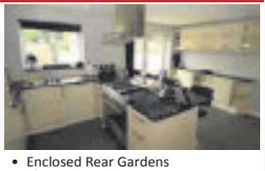
Offers in the region of £329,000

LLANFYLLIN



- Four Bedroom Family Home
- Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Enclosed Rear Gardens
- Pleasant Location
- Off-Road Parking

£199,500

OSWESTRY

- Modern Detached Park Home
- Three Bedrooms
- En Suite Facilities
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gardens
- Driveway

£125,000

WHITTINGTON

- WITH NO CHAIN!!
- Three Storey Cottage
- Full Renovation Required
- Sought After Location

Offers in the region of £115,000

OSWESTRY

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- No Chain
- Integrated appliances

£92,500

LLANSILIN

- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Detached Country Residence
- 3 Reception Rooms
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Single Garage

Offers in the region of £379,000

CHIRK BANK

- Popular Location
- End of Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal FTB or investment
- Well maintained Throughout
- Allocated Parking 2 Vehicles

Offers over £129,950

WOOLSTON BANK, NR MAESBURY

- NO CHAIN!!!!!
- Detached Cottage
- Rural Location
- Off-Road Parking
- Wet Room
- Family Bathroom

£189,950

OSWESTRY

- Modern Semi-detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Cul-de-sac Location
- Gas Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing

£154,950

LLANFYLLIN

- Ideal Investment
- First Time Buy
- Victorian Semi-Detached Cottage
- Two Bedrooms

£127,350

FOXEN MANOR, FOUR CROSSES

- Extended Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- Two Reception Rooms

£165,000

GLYN CEIRIOG

- Detached Bungalow
- Three/ Four Bedrooms
- Elevated Position
- Two Garages & Parking

£167,950

OSWESTRY

- Detached Bungalow
- Extended Accommodation
- Three Bedrooms
- Lean-to Conservatory

Offers in the region of £179,950

CHIRK BANK

- GENEROUS ACCOMMODATION
- Semi Detached Cottage
- Three bedrooms
- Popular village location

Offers over £200,000

ST MARTINS

- Immaculate Three Bedroom
- Semi-Detached Family Home
- Village Location
- Trianco Gravity Fed Boiler

£159,950

2-4 Willow Street, Oswestry, SY11 1AA Visit all our propertiesat www.townandcountryoswestry.com

NAEA

rightmove.co.uk

Five bedroom property has outstanding views

A detached five bedroomed country property with outstanding views, Bryn Paenod, Llanfechain, is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £400,000. The property is situated in a large garden and has been extensively refurbished by the current owners to a high standard throughout. Accommodation comprises kitchen, drawing room, sun room, lounge, library, study, cloakroom, five bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is double garaging, a good sized garden and the property is in a private position.
For more information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.

Superb cottage in picturesque village

A rare opportunity is available to purchase a superb three bedroomed cottage situated in the picturesque village of Meifod. The property, 2 Liverpool Cottages, benefits from an abundance of character features including exposed beams and inglenook fireplace. The property is on the market through Halls for £89,950. The property is situated within the centre of the picturesque village of Meifod. The village has a host of shops, amenities, primary school and public houses whilst the A495 provides a direct link to the larger towns of Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Welshpool. For more information contact Halls on 01938 555552.

Smallholding is in an idyllic rural location

A smallholding in an idyllic rural location, Ty Cerrig at Croesaubach has outstanding views of the Shropshire plain, yet is just three miles from Oswestry. It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson with offers in the region of £450,000. The property comprises a spacious three-bedroomed detached cottage standing in mature gardens, a range of useful outbuildings, stables and field shelters together with about 10.75 acres of excellent pasture land located in a ring fence immediately to the rear of the house. Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Stunning residence has 12 acres of land

A stunning country residence with 12 acres of land, situated in a private, rural location under five miles from the Shropshire border market town of Oswestry, is on offer with agents Halls for £699,950.
Stone House Farm, Selattyn is a period farmhouse with characterful accommodation which has been tastefully renovated to provide a luxury family home, which comes with pasture paddocks and woodland, a manege, stable blocks and outbuildings.
Viewing is by appointment with Halls' Oswestry office on 01691 670320.

Christmas TV

YOUR 12-PAGE FESTIVE GUIDE

LOOK WHO'S BACK

DOCTOR WHO

UP

DOWNTON ABBEY

MRS BROWN'S BOYS

Festive film guide

Magic mix of movie treats

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
(Channel 4, 2.15pm, Christmas Eve)

It just wouldn't be Christmas without Frank Capra's life affirming 1946 fable. James Stewart stars as suicidal family man George Bailey, who convinces himself that his beloved wife Mary (Donna Reed) and four children would be better off without him. Poised to jump off a bridge in Bedford Falls, New York, George is rescued by guardian angel Clarence (Henry Travers), who has been shown flashbacks of the father's past. "You see George, you've really had a wonderful life," says the spirit, "Don't you see what a mistake it would be to just throw it away?" It's A Wonderful Life is a perfect festive treat.

James Stewart and Donna Reed star in the classic

THE WIZARD OF OZ
(Channel 5, 3.10pm, Christmas Day)

Judy Garland dons her iconic ruby slippers to magical effect in this evergreen 1939 MGM musical. Which is ironic, as it tells the story of Dorothy, who is swept away from her beloved Kansas by a tornado only to land in the magical world of Oz, where she must seek the help of the wizard to return home. The luminous leading lady sings Somewhere Over The Rainbow as her magical pals – The Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), The Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr) and The Tin Man (Jack Haley) – follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City and their destiny. More than 75 years after it first dazzled audiences, Victor Fleming's lavish Technicolor fantasy looks and sounds splendid.

Antonia Banderas is the voice of Puss in Boots

PUSS IN BOOTS
(BBC1, 3.25pm, Boxing Day)

The story begins with the young Puss (voiced by Antonio Banderas) being abandoned at an orphanage where kind Imelda (Constance Marie) raises the kitten as her own. Initially picked on by the boys, Puss learns to fight to survive and he helps protect fellow outcast Humpty Alexander Dumpty (Zach Galifianakis). Many years later, the surrogate brothers join forces with sexy pickpocket Kitty Softpaws (Salma Hayek) to steal magic beans currently in the possession of murderous outlaws Jack (Billy Bob Thornton) and Jill (Amy Sedaris), as they try to find the Golden Goose. While it doesn't quite live up to the Shrek movies that spawned it, this animated adventure does have charm all of its own. Banderas once again shows why he's so perfectly cast as Puss.

Up is one of Disney Pixar's finest creations

UP
(BBC1, 2.50pm, New Year's Eve)

Following the death of his beloved wife, retired balloon salesman Carl Fredricksen (Ed Asner) refuses to leave the house he built with his beloved. When developers threaten to bulldoze the property, Carl ties thousands of brightly-coloured helium balloons to the roof and takes flight, bound for Paradise Falls in South America, where he and Ellie had always planned to visit. Unexpectedly, a Junior Wilderness Explorer called Russell (Jordan Nagai) is stranded on the porch and the plucky tyke joins Carl on his big adventure.

Steve Pemberton, Madeline Holliday and Harry Hill – Professor Branestawm 2

Not Going Out Christmas Special shows on BBC1 on Christmas Eve

Your festive

IT might not be time to put the turkey in the oven just yet, but it's never too early to start working out your festive viewing.

Soaps, Christmas specials, the Queen's speech and films galore – the TV schedules for Christmas and New Year are packed with things to tempt you.

Last year The Queen's broadcast, simulcast on BBC1 and ITV, topped the Christmas Day ratings, with overnight figures showing an average of 7.82 million viewers.

BBC1 had seven of the top 10 most watched programmes while ITV had four – the channels shared the Queen's Christmas Broadcast at 3pm.

Mrs Brown's Boys on BBC1, averaged 7.61 million, having the single biggest audience for the second year running.

However, overall figures for live TV viewing were sharply down on the year before that.

This year the big Christmas Day favourites are of course once again Doctor Who, Call the Midwife, Downton Abbey and Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special.

But for many THE must-watch of 2015 will be the two-hour Christmas Day swansong screening of Downton Abbey, which is set in the lead-up to New year's Eve 1925.

Its now time to get your pens at the ready to begin circling your programmes of choice! To help you, here's a sneak-peek at some of the festive fare:

Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns
(BBC1, Christmas Eve, 5.20pm)

Harry Hill is back as the absent-minded professor with the multiple spectacles, who believes his money troubles are over when Lady Pagwell dies, leaving a substantial sum to fund local inventing. However, scheming local councillor Harold Haggerstone insists on holding a competition to decide who gets the money – and that's when a rival turns up – the self-proclaimed greatest inventor in the world Professor Algebrain. To make matters worse, Branestawm has been neglecting his young assistant Connie – and now she is working with his rival.

Not Going Out
(BBC1, Christmas Eve, 10.45pm)

The festive season is rarely dull for Lee and co – just think back to the wedding episode this time last year. This Christmas Eve, he and Lucy – who is three days overdue with their first baby – find themselves mistakenly caught up in a robbery at a local department store. Alongside them are Lee's dad Frank, dressed as Santa's elf, Daisy, and neighbours Toby and Anna. Locked in and faced with a dangerous armed robber wearing a Father Christmas mask, they have to come up with an escape plan.

Stick Man
(BBC1, Christmas Day, 4.45pm)

Written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler, creators of The Gruffalo, The Gruffalo's Child and Room on the Broom, this heart-warming animated special is voiced by a stellar cast. Join Stick Man as he goes on an incredible adventure across the seasons. Will he get back to his family in time for Christmas?

Doctor Who
(BBC1, Christmas Day, 5.15pm)

Christmas is all about getting together with your loved ones – even the gallivanting Gallifreyan is up to it this year when he is reunited with his long-lost wife, River Song. The return of Alex Kingston as the sassy traveller is always a welcome sight, but will the Doctor be as pleased to see her as the viewers at home? Probably not. He's in a really grumpy mood, determined to avoid anything remotely Christmassy. But when he answers a distress call asking for his help, he's recruited by River – who, for now, doesn't seem to recognise him.

Brendan O'Carroll as Agnes Brown in Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special 2015

Anna Maxwell Martin as Ethel Rogers – And Then There Were None

Heart-warming animation in Stick Man on Christmas Day

Call the Midwife
(BBC1, Christmas Day, 7.30pm)

Christmas 1960 is still an exciting time for the residents of Poplar. Some of the locals head off on a festive bus trip to see the Regent Street lights, while a visit from a BBC film crew who are due to shoot a carol concert for broadcast really stirs things up. However, for Iris, the time of year brings back memories of her much-missed baby daughter.

Downton Abbey – The Finale
(ITV, Christmas Day, 8.45pm)

Julian Fellowes bids farewell to the Crawleys with one last festive special, catching up with the Abbey's residents.

Mary endeavours to build bridges, but Edith's secret continues to pose a threat.

As Henry settles into the role of husband, scars left by Charlie's death are slow to heal.

Carson struggles to come to terms with developments.

Spratt's moonlighting venture is threatened by the conniving of Denker, and Daisy may have missed her chance with an admirer.

Isobel receives devastating news, while the day that Anna and Bates have long-since waited for arrives.

Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special
(BBC1, Christmas Day, 9.45pm)

The doting mother-of-six is determined to have a safe and peaceful Christmas at home this year. However, with Mark and Betty arguing about the re-appearance of his first love Bubbles, carol singers haunting her every waking hour and Buster installing a strange new Christmas tree, how will she manage to survive? The first of two festive instalments of the comedy.

Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas
(BBC1, Christmas Day, 6.10pm)

The mischievous sheep stars in a TV special, following on from Aardman's hit film. Shaun secretly accompanies the Farmer

The lovable Shaun the Sheep stars in Farmer's Llamas, on Christmas Day

Richard Ridings and Caroline Quentin as Mr and Mrs Bumble in Dickensian

TV round-up

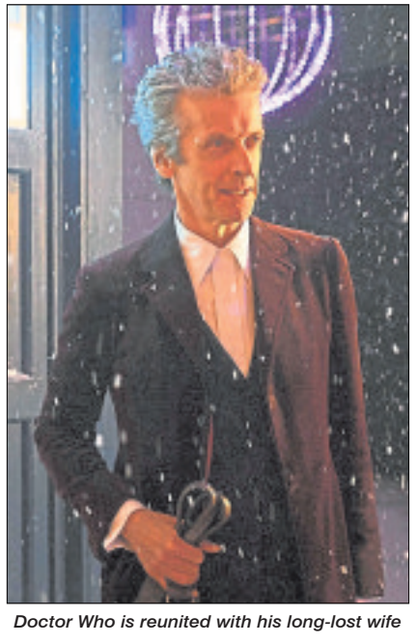
Allan Carr's New Year Specstacular

There's a festive bus trip in Call The Midwife

The last ever Downton Abbey, Christmas Day

Guests galore on The Graham Norton Show

Rafe Spall stars in Harry Price: Ghost Hunter, December 27



Doctor Who is reunited with his long-lost wife

and Bitzer to a country fair, where he meets kindred spirits in the form of three trouble-making llamas. Inviting the exotic animals back to Mossy Bottom, Shaun tries to persuade his flock that the newcomers are just what is needed to spice things up. However, the tricksters soon take their pranks too far, and when they install themselves in the farmhouse, Shaun realises he must oust the destructive intruders.

Dickensian
(BBC1, Boxing Day, 7pm)

Every festive season, there are countless versions of A Christmas Carol on TV, but this new series is attempting to do something more ambitious with the world of Charles Dickens. The action begins on Christmas Eve, as Arthur and Amelia Havisham prepare for the reading of their father's will, and debt collector Jacob Marley looks set to drive someone to murder.

And Then There Were None
(BBC1, Boxing Day, 9pm)

This offering has proved to be an enduring crime classic – the best-selling novel of its kind of all-time, having sold 100 million copies worldwide. This new star-studded three-part adaptation sees a group of 10 strangers (played by actors including Charles Dance, Anna Maxwell Martin, Miranda Richardson and Poldark's Aidan Turner) invited to stay on an isolated rock off the Devon coast at the request of a Mr and Mrs UN Owen. All the guests have a guilty conscience. And before long they are being picked off one by one in a manner very similar to the nursery rhyme 10 Little Soldier Boys that hangs in every room of the house.

Harry Price: Ghost Hunter
(ITV, December 27, 8.30pm)

Famous ghost hunter and sceptic Harry Price is called upon to investigate the haunting of a local MP's home. Politician Edward Goodwin cannot afford to have his reputation ruined, and his wife Grace's health and future rest upon the investigation. Harry teams up with the family maid Sarah Grey, making a formidable partnership as they gather more evidence and unravel the mysteries behind the hauntings.

Alan Carr's New Year Specstacular
(Channel 4, New Year's Eve, 9pm)

It's New Year's Eve, which means that each channel is bringing out its big guns, determined to tempt viewers into staying in and watching their programmes. Last year, Carr was at the heart of Channel 4's celebrations, and he must have gone down well because he's back to do it all again. Party games and guests abound, while sketches and musical performances will also take place. David Guetta, Danny Dyer, Mel B, Greg Davies, Verne Troyer and Katherine Ryan are the famous faces involved.

The Graham Norton Show
(BBC1, New Year's Eve, 10.45pm)

The effervescent host presents a star-studded show to help see out another year, including the first appearance on the programme by Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence, star of The Hunger Games franchise. She is joined by British actor Eddie Redmayne, comedy star Will Ferrell, and rapper-turned-actor Mark Wahlberg.

Action from the soaps

Drama and revelations

EastEnders (BBC1)

It's going to be a dramatic Christmas for Stacey as she braces herself to tell the truth about the baby's parentage, only for Kush to change his mind after Shabnam receives some upsetting news.

Over at the Vic, Linda schemes to reunite Mick and Shirley while Dean sulks at home.

As the fallout from Christmas day continues, lives are hanging in the balance – while Dean is just having a tantrum because his dinner hasn't gone to plan.

He's still in a bad mood later in the week as Mick celebrates his stag night, so Shirley decides to go check on her youngest son, and is shocked to find him attacking Roxy. Is Dean going to be banished from the family all together?

Kush, Shabnam, Stacey and Martin – EastEnders

Coronation Street (ITV)

Robert plans to propose to Tracey on Christmas Day, but she's distracted by Rob, who tells her he could be released from jail on a technicality and wants to pick up where they left off. She's thrown by his words and initially claims she will wait for him, little realising he is planning to inform Robert about her duplicity. Nick urges David to make it up with Kylie, but matters go from bad to worse between the pair. However, she makes a big gesture that may just make him realise they could have a future together. Kevin and Anna grow closer, and end up spending December 25 together at Tim and Sally's. Plus, Tyrone's winter wonderland goes down a treat with an ailing Hope – but will his surprise for her mother please Fiz?

Rob tells Tracey he could be released from jail

Emmerdale (ITV)

Desperate to get the cash to buy Diane's share of the pub, Aaron agrees to act as lookout while Ross robs a warehouse, but he could need Gordon's help after all when the robbery hits the news, along with an incriminating image from the scene of the crime.

Elsewhere, Ashley realises he can't face his illness without Laurel, but Harriet is hurt to see the couple reunited.

Belle plots revenge after spotting Zak and Joanie kissing, leaving her dad afraid she might share the news with the rest of the Dingles over Christmas dinner.

Lachlan sees a chance to make some money out of David, Vanessa is nervous about little Johnny's homecoming, and Pollard's plans to spend Christmas stewing on his own are ruined by Cheryl the dog.

And there's a Christmas treat for soap fans as a guest checks into the B&B, played by guest star Liz Dawn (aka Vera Duckworth)

Liz Dawn makes a guest appearance in Emmerdale

Hollyoaks (Channel 4)

There doesn't seem to be much chance of Leela and Cameron calling a Christmas truce, as she tells him he'll never see his daughter again. However, she's more forgiving towards Ziggy, as when he calls round to her new flat, they are so busy reminiscing, he forgets the purpose of the visit was to drop off Peri's present. Elsewhere, Porsche is baffled to learn that Derek has left her a considerable inheritance.

Last-minute handy star buys costing under £20

LEFT it 'til the last minute? Sam Wylie-Harris rounds up some star buys for £20 or less.

It's beginning to look a lot like... Or is it? With Santa's sleigh fast approaching and time running out, better get your skates on if there's a little something missing under the tree, or there's a hole in your stocking.

Here's our pick of last-minute bargain gift ideas for house-proud types...

MASTER OF WINE

Even the most experienced taster will appreciate this quirky mug, which would make a stylish addition to a monochrome scheme, and could even come in handy during a Dry January – Wine Tasting Rabbit Mug, £14, Ham (www.hammade.com)

HEAVEN SCENT

Not only are these striking matches delicately perfumed - with a blend of iris, jasmine, rose and leather – but their extra long length means they can reach even the shortest candle in a china vessel – Cire Trudon Madeleine Scented Matches, £15, Selfridges (www.selfridges.com)

POST A THOUGHT

We may live in the text and email era, but nothing beats a hand-written note. This decadent set contains 10 gold foiled correspondence cards and matching envelopes – Telephone Correspondence Set, £14.99, Chase And Wonder (www.chaseandwonder.com)

HAPPY HOUR

Break the ice and get the conversation flowing with this illuminated bar sign, which should inspire cocktail hounds to create some festive party drinks – Party Illuminations Bar Sign, £16.50, Talking Tables (www.talkingtables.co.uk)

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER

As most hosts will agree, the worst part of entertaining is the washing up. Avoid kitchen sink dramas by serving the Christmas pud or selection of cheeses on one of these fun festive plates – Botanical Christmas Paper Plates, £4.50 for pack of 12, Talking Tables (www.talkingtables.co.uk)

COFFEE BREAK

Coffee connoisseurs will appreciate this stove top percolator, which makes the best espresso (up to six cups), the old-fashioned way – Wild & Wolf Gentleman's Hardware Coffee Percolator, £19.95, Bloomsbury (www.bloomsburystore.com)

TIMED TO PERFECTION

Prep like a pro, plan your menu and prevent any mishaps with this handy little timer – a sober saviour if you've started on the Buck's Fizz before seasoning the turkey and cooking all the trimmings – Alessi Kitchen Timer , £19.95, Trouva (www.trouva.com)

CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Chic and contemporary, this clear vase has lasting appeal, and just a sprig or two of fresh flowers will look blooming marvellous – LSA Festive Flower Table Bouquet Vase, £20, Houseology (www.houseology.com)

GRAND DESIGNS

We all love to drink with our eyes, and these these keenly priced wine goblets will make a glass of pinot grigio, or cabernet sauvignon, taste even better – Nordal Diamond White Wine Glass, £5.50 each; Diamond Red Wine Glass, £7 each, Amara (www.amara.com)

WINTER WONDERLAND

Sometimes a sweet Christmas tree decoration is all it takes to bring a smile to the face – Snow-filled Penguin Christmas Decoration, £8, Natural History Museum Shop (www.nhmshop.co.uk)

REAL CORKER

When it comes to cracking open a bottle of wine, this stylish stopper will keep the fizz from going flat – Just Slate Stags Head Bottle Stopper, £10, Houseology (www.houseology.com)

CHART TOPPER

Top and tail those vegetables and keep your counter clean with this funky glass board – Joseph Joseph Tomato Vinyl Record Worktop Saver 30cm, £15, Selfridges (Available online only; www.selfridges.com)

WELL STORIED

A fun gift that's practical and present-able, humour her anger and you could be forgiven for not drying up the glasses – Red Queen Tea Towel, £12, Mrs Moore's Vintage Store (www.mrs-moores-vintage-store.co.uk)

Christmas Eve

Early View

BBC 1

Lee Mack features in the Christmas special of Not Going Out, on at 10.45pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul** Part two of two. How Paul brought Christianity to the Mediterranean world. (R) **10.00 On Angel Wings** (R) **10.30 FILM: The Santa Clause (1994)** Fantasy comedy, starring Tim Allen. ★★★ **12.00 Bargain Hunt** Four teams test their antiques knowledge in Corby, Northamptonshire. (R) **1.00 BBC News at One; Weather 1.10 Midlands Today; Weather 1.20 Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale** Following the first months in the life of an emperor penguin. (R) **2.20 FILM: A Christmas Carol (2009)** Animated fantasy based on Charles Dickens' novel, featuring Jim Carrey and Gary Oldman. ★★

BBC 2

Natalie Dormer stars in The Scandalous Lady W, on at 10.00pm

6.20 Homes Under the Hammer A cottage in Cornwall and a house in south London. (R) **7.20 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas** (R) **8.05 Sign Zone: This Wild Life** (R) **8.35 Sign Zone: Great British Menu** (R) **9.05 FILM: Bedknobs and Broomsticks (1971)** Disney musical fantasy, starring Angela Lansbury. ★★★ **11.00 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure** (R) **12.00 Natural World** Gentoo penguins raising chicks in Port Lockroy in the Antarctic. (R) **1.00 FILM: Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993)** Comedy sequel, starring Whoopi Goldberg. ★★★ **2.45 Perry and Croft: Made in Britain** How the duo's comedies each encapsulated the end of an era. (R)

ITV

Keith Lemon presents Through the Christmas Keyhole, on at 9.45pm

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) **6.15 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Sooty** (R) **6.40 Super 4** Fourchesac tries to make a love potion for the Dark Baron. (R) **7.00 Good Morning Britain** News, current affairs and lifestyle features. **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas** Stop-motion animated adventure based on the film Elf. (R) **10.25 Pick Me!** Game show featuring lively, loud and energetic players. (R) **11.25 FILM: Back to the Future Part II (1989)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★ **1.30 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather. **1.45 FILM: Small Soldiers (1998)** Children's adventure, with Kirsten Dunst, Denis Leary and Gregory Smith. ★★★

Ch4

Christmas displays, My Crazy Christmas Lights, on at 8.00pm

6.15 Small Animal Hospital John Barrowman visits a centre for rescued rabbits. **7.00 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **7.20 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **7.40 The Snowman** (R) **8.05 Father Christmas** (R) **8.35 The Simpsons** (R) **9.10 FILM: Animals United (2010)** Animated comedy with the voices of James Corden and Stephen Fry. ★★ **10.55 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008)** Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Jim Carrey. ★★★ **12.30 FILM: Stuart Little (1999)** Comedy adventure, with the voice of Michael J Fox. ★★★ **2.10 Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather. **2.15 FILM: It's a Wonderful Life (1946)** Fantasy drama, starring James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. (b/w) ★★★★

Ch5

Festive cheer in Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud, on at 7.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.30 The Real Face of Santa Claus Documentary piecing together historical clues about St Nicholas, an early Christian bishop who lived in Turkey, while forensic experts build a reconstruction of his likeness. **10.30 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939)** A plantation heiress has a tumultuous relationship with a roguish Southern gentleman during the American Civil War. Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. ★★★★ **2.45 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954)** An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany's industrial heartland. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Michael Redgrave. (b/w) ★★★★

Prime Time

3.50 Finding Nemo (2003) ★★★★

5.20 Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns

6.20 BBC News

6.30 Midlands Today; Weather

6.40 Celebrity Mastermind

7.10 Pointless Celebrities Christmas Special Featuring Jeffrey Holland and Su Pollard, Alison Hammond and Robin Windsor, and Colin Baker and Louise Jameson.

8.00 Would I Lie to You? At Christmas Rob Brydon presents a festive special of the comedy game, with Bill Bailey, Ruth Jones, Jo Brand and Kelly Holmes joining team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack.

8.30 EastEnders Stacey goes into labour during the nativity play, Ronnie is forced to choose a side between Vincent and Phil, and Sharon drops a bombshell that threatens to tear the Beales apart.

9.05 Peter Kay: 20 Years of Funny A celebration of the Bolton comedian's two decades in the business, going back to his early days before stardom and hearing from friends and colleagues about what makes him tick.

10.05 Walliams and Friend Sketch show, starring David Walliams and Joanna Lumley.

10.45 Not Going Out On Christmas Eve, Lee and Lucy – who is three days overdue with their first baby – find themselves mistakenly caught up in a robbery at a local department store.

11.30 BBC News; Weather.

11.45 Midnight Mass from St George's Cathedral, Southwark Live service from south London, led by the Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Rev Peter Smith, with prayers to reflect the cathedral's international congregation.

1.00 FILM: Serendipity (2001) ★★★ **2.25 Weather for the Week Ahead 2.30 BBC News**

3.15 The Snow Wolf Family and Me (R)

4.15 The Snow Wolf Family and Me (R)

5.15 Carols from King's

6.30 To the Manor Born (R)

7.00 Dad's Army Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for an orange at a fundraising bazaar, but the private reveals a stubborn streak that costs the captain dear. (R)

7.30 Christmas University Challenge Graduates from Exeter University and Magdalen College, Oxford, compete, with wildlife presenter Nick Baker and documentary-maker Louis Theroux among the contestants.

8.00 MasterChef: The Professionals The three finalists have three hours to cook a starter, a main course and a dessert, before one of them is crowned Professional MasterChef Champion 2015. Last in the series.

9.00 The Great History Quiz: The Tudors Kirsty Young asks the questions in this quiz which sees two teams of historians, captained by Lucy Worsley and Dan Snow, demonstrate their knowledge on all aspects of Tudor life.

10.00 The Scandalous Lady W Fact-based period drama about an 18th-century noblewoman who found herself at the centre of a public scandal after eloping with her husband's best friend. Natalie Dormer stars. (R)

11.30 Dial M for Murder (1954) A tennis player's plan to arrange the death of his socialite wife goes wrong when she kills her would-be assassin. Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, with Ray Milland and Grace Kelly. ★★★

1.10 Simply Nigella: Christmas Special (R) **2.10 Christmas Shopping Fever 2015: John Lewis and the Retail Race** (R) **3.10 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas** (R)

3.50 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase. ★★★

5.40 All Star Mr & Mrs With Martine McCutcheon, Harry Redknapp and Gwyneth Strong. (R)

6.45 ITV Evening News; Weather.

7.00 Emmerdale Belle sees Zak and Joanie kissing and becomes determined to make her pay, while the warehouse robbery is on the news and Aaron's picture is in the paper.

8.00 Coronation Street Fiz tells Tyrone that Hope might not be allowed home for Christmas and Lapland might have to wait. Meanwhile, Tracy confides in Todd that she thinks Robert is planning to propose.

8.30 The Abba Christmas Party Paddy McGuinness presents as music and TV stars sing Abba hits, featuring performances by Susan Boyle, Alexandra Burke, Shayne Ward and Catherine Tyldesley and Scouting for Girls.

9.45 Through the Christmas Keyhole Keith Lemon has a festive rummage through the homes of three celebrities, challenging Stephen Mulhern, Claudia Winkleman and Jimmy Carr to guess their identities. Last in the series.

10.45 ITV News Including Regional News and ITV Weather; Weather.

11.00 Christmas Carols on ITV Aled Jones joins the congregation of St Elisabeth's Church in Reddish, Stockport, for their Christmas Eve carol service, with performances by Collabro and soul singer Toni Green.

12.00 FILM: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) Time-travel comedy, starring Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter. ★★★ **1.40 Murder, She Wrote** (R) **2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **3.15 ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service. **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

4.55 The Snowman Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (R)

5.25 The Snowman and the Snowdog Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (R)

6.00 Hollyoaks When Lockie hears about the explosion, he is suspicious of Cameron and threatens to go to the police. Elsewhere, the police search for Reenie and Lisa reveals her secret.

7.00 Jamie's Night Before Christmas Jamie Oliver presents last-minute tips to help people improve their festive dishes, having surveyed thousands of Brits to find out what they fear most about cooking at Christmas.

8.00 My Crazy Christmas Lights The phenomenon of competitive Christmas displays, where a passion for festive lights has seen neighbours trying to outdo each other for the most elaborate design.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special Jimmy Carr hosts another festive edition of the show, with some of the nation's top comedy stars joining team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson.

10.00 Rude Tube Christmas Cracker Alex Zane presents 50 festive internet clips that have proved popular around the world, including a turkey with a boob job and an inventive Christmas tree decoration-remover.

11.00 Gogglebox Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

12.00 The Inbetweeners (R) **12.35 The Inbetweeners** (R) **1.05 The Inbetweeners** (R) **1.30 The Inbetweeners** (R) **2.00 Man Down Christmas Special** (R) **2.30 Man Down** (R) **2.55 Man Down** (R) **3.25 Embarrassing Bodies** (R) **4.20 Benchmark 5.10 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures** (R) **5.30 Famous Fred** (R)

5.15 5 News

5.20 Scrooge – A Christmas Carol (1951) (b/w) Starring Alastair Sim. ★★★★

7.00 Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud Iain Lee presents Christmas-themed videos that have taken the internet by storm in a seasonal special showcasing hilarious online clips with a festive twist; 5 News Update

7.55 Frank Sinatra & Gene Kelly: Ol' Blues Eyes Is Back A TV special from 1973 in which Frank Sinatra performs a selection of classic songs and is joined for a couple of numbers by Anchors Aweigh co-star Gene Kelly.

8.25 Happy Holidays with Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby The veteran crooners' festive special from 1957, with songs including Away in a Manger, The Christmas Song, Santa Claus Is Coming to Town and White Christmas; 5 News Update

8.55 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show Festive special from 1981, in which the duo perform vintage sketches and act as a backing group for Alvin Stardust. Featuring guest appearances by Ralph Richardson and Robert Hardy. (R)

10.00 Christmas with the Double Acts An hour of side-splitting fun with some of the greatest double acts to have graced the small screen, proving that when it comes to comedy, two are often better than one.

11.00 Morecambe & Wise Live! 1973 The duo's performance at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon's Fairfield Halls in October 1973, which was the only one of their stage shows captured on film. (R)

12.30 FILM: Scrooge – A Christmas Carol (1951) (b/w) ★★★★ **2.15 SuperCasino 4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge** (R) **4.25 Divine Designs** (R) **4.45 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 House Doctor** (R)

Late View

Christmas Day

BBC 1

Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special 2015, on at 6.15pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 Shrek the Halls** (R) **9.20 Clangers 9.35 Danger Mouse: The Snowman Cometh 10.00 Christmas Day Service Live from Bath Abbey** A service led by the Rev Edward Mason and the Rev Claire Robson. **11.00 FILM: The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (2006)** Christmas fantasy comedy sequel, starring Tim Allen. ★★★ **12.25 FILM: Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (2012)** Animated comedy, with the voices of Ben Stiller and Chris Rock. ★★★ **1.50 BBC News;** Weather. **2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas** Featuring performances by Little Mix, Coldplay, Jess Glynne and Ellie Goulding.

BBC 2

Taking a personal journey, Darcey's Ballet Heroes, on at 8.50pm

6.00 FILM: The Road to El Dorado (2000) Animated adventure, with the voices of Kenneth Branagh and Kevin Kline. ★★★ **7.20 Galapagos – Islands of Change: Natural World** (R) **8.20 FILM: Herbie Rides Again (1974)** Disney comedy sequel, starring Helen Hayes. ★★★ **9.45 FILM: The Cat in the Hat (2003)** Comedy fantasy, starring Mike Myers. ★★ **11.00 Carols from King's** (R) **12.15 Climbed Every Mountain – The Story Behind The Sound of Music** The true story behind the real Von Trapp family, with Sue Perkins. (R) **1.15 The Good Life** Tom ponders the future. (R) **1.45 FILM: Frankenweenie (2012)** Premiere. Animated fantasy, with the voice of Charlie Tahan. (b/w) ★★★

ITV

Peter Wilkinson features, Cameraman to the Queen, on at 3.10pm

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) **6.10 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Sooty** (R) **6.40 Sooty** (R) **6.50 Oddbods** (R) **7.00 Dino Dan** (R) **7.15 Horrid Henry** (R) **7.30 Horrid Henry** (R) **7.45 Christmas: Chowder** Chowder worries he will not get the gift that he wants. (R) **8.10 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **8.25 Weekend at Christmas** With Laura Fraser, James Morrison and Leona Lewis. **9.25 FILM: Santa Claus: The Movie (1985)** Family fantasy adventure, starring Dudley Moore. ★★ **11.30 FILM: Happy Feet (2006)** Animated adventure, with the voices of Elijah Wood and Robin Williams. ★★★ **1.35 Text Santa: One More Time** Choice moments from the recent TV charity appeal. **2.45 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather.

Ch4

Children share their views, Gogglesprogs, on at 8.00pm

6.45 Prep & Landing (R) **7.05 Prep & Landing: Naughty v Nice** (R) **7.30 The Bear** (R) **8.00 FILM: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010)** ★★★ **9.40 The Simpsons** (R) **10.10 The Simpsons** (R) **10.40 The Simpsons** (R) **11.15 Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** (R) **11.40 Toy Story Toons 12.10 Father Christmas** Seasonal animation based on Raymond Briggs' book. (R) **12.40 The Snowman** Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (R) **1.15 The Snowman and the Snowdog** Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (R) **1.45 FILM: The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)** Comedy, with Michael Caine and Steven Mackintosh alongside the puppet characters. ★★★

Ch5

Sinatra 100: An All-Star Grammy Concert, on at 11.05pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Andre Rieu's Christmas Spectacular A seasonal concert by the Dutch violinist and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, featuring performances of O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, Jingle Bells and White Christmas. (R) **10.50 FILM: Scrooge (1970)** A miserly man is taught the error of his ways by a host of spectral visitors. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney and Alec Guinness. ★★★ **1.05 FILM: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954)** A cowboy decides to get married, prompting his six hellraising brothers to kidnap brides for themselves. Stanley Donen's musical Western, starring Howard Keel and Jane Powell. ★★★★

Early View

3.00 The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 2015

3.10 Brave (2012) Premiere. Animated fantasy, with the voice of Kelly Macdonald. ★★★

4.35 BBC News; Weather.

4.45 Stick Man

5.15 Doctor Who

6.15 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special 2015 Six previous contestants compete for the Silver Star trophy.

7.30 Call the Midwife As Poplar readies itself for Christmas 1960, a visit from a BBC film crew promises to make it a festive holiday to remember. However, it's a difficult time for grieving mother Iris.

8.45 EastEnders Ian's hopes of a perfect Christmas fall apart when the Beales and Mitchells end up arguing, Stacey receives an unexpected visitor and Dean surprises Roxy with an engagement ring.

9.45 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special The doting mother's wish to have a safe and peaceful Christmas at home is frustrated at every turn. The first of two festive instalments, written by and starring Brendan O'Carroll.

10.25 Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show From the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, London, the host welcomes performers including Dara O Briain, Dame Edna Everage, Paul Zerdin, Ellie Goulding and Tom Jones to the stage.

11.25 BBC News; Weather.

11.40 Love Came Down at Christmas At St Alban's Church in Bristol, the Exultate Singers perform David Ogden's new choral setting of the Christina Rossetti poem, and actor Alex Jennings reads from the Gospel of John; National Lottery Update

11.45 Comedy Bloopers

12.15 Not Going Out (R) **1.00 FILM: Surviving Christmas (2004)** ★ **2.25 Weather for the Week Ahead 2.30 BBC News**

Prime Time

3.05 Tim Rice – A Life in Song (R)

4.35 Romeo & Juliet (2013) With Douglas Booth. ★★

6.20 Sign Zone: The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 2015 (R)

6.30 World's Sneakiest Animals

7.30 Dad's Army Pompous Captain Mainwaring proves he is a softie at heart by organising a Christmas treat for the struggling senior citizens of Walmington-on-Sea. (R)

8.00 The Two Ronnies: Christmas Show Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett in a special Christmas show of sketches, jokes and songs, with guests Peter Wyngarde and Patrick Troughton. Plus, music by Elaine Page. (R)

8.50 Darcey's Ballet Heroes Former ballet dancer-turned-Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell undertakes a very personal journey to meet the heroes and dancers who transformed male ballet.

9.50 QI Stephen Fry conjures up some seasonal merriment with Jenny Eclair, Johnny Vegas and Bill Bailey supplementing the efforts of regular panellist Alan Davies.

10.20 We're Doomed!: The Dad's Army Story Comedy drama about how Jimmy Perry and David Croft overcame BBC management scepticism and focus groups to get the sitcom Dad's Army on air. Starring Paul Ritter and Richard Dormer. (R)

11.20 Gambit (2012) A put-upon art expert plans revenge on a millionaire by tricking him into buying a fake Monet painting. Comedy remake, starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman. ★★

12.40 FILM: The Trouble with Harry (1955) Hitchcock's black comedy, with Edmund Gwenn, John Forsyth and Shirley MacLaine. ★★★★ **2.20 This Is BBC Two**

3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address.

3.10 Cameraman to the Queen Royal cameraman Peter Wilkinson follows the queen over the course of one year.

4.10 Countrywise Winter Wonderland Exploring what makes this time of year special for Britain's countryside.

5.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas The broadcaster spreads festive cheer at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London.

6.00 ITV Evening News; Weather.

6.15 You've Been Framed! With Bells On Camcorder clips with a festive theme, including a pensioner throwing fireworks at carol singers, a Christmas fairy going up in flames, and a smartphone found inside a turkey.

6.45 Emmerdale Pollard finally leaves the house, and has an experience that forces him to confront his past, present and future. Coronation Street's Liz Dawn (Vera Duckworth) guest stars.

7.45 Coronation Street Robert is about to propose to Tracy, but first he asks her a question that leaves her reeling. Meanwhile, Sinead is thrilled when she gets an engagement ring of her own.

8.45 Downton Abbey – The Finale Mary endeavours to build bridges, but Edith's secret continues to pose a threat as Julian Fellowes bids farewell to the Crawleys with one last festive special.

10.45 Our Cilla A celebration of Cilla Black by the people who knew her best, including famous faces such as Ringo Starr, Cliff Richard, Christopher Biggins and Paul O'Grady.

11.45 ITV News; Weather.

12.00 FILM: Dr No (1962) ★★★★ **1.50 Murder, She Wrote** (R) **2.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **3.25 ITV Nightscreen**

3.25 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

3.35 Alternative Christmas Message Channel 4's alternative to the Queen's Christmas Day broadcast.

3.45 Scrooged (1988) Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. ★★★

5.45 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) Comedy sequel, starring Macaulay Culkin. ★★★

8.00 Gogglesprogs The nation's children share their opinions on the best and worst of 2015's TV, from the cakes on The Great British Bake off, to big news stories like the general election.

9.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special The host is joined by Catherine Tate's Nan, Keith Lemon, Lorraine Kelly, Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. Plus, music by Little Mix and One Direction. Last in the series.

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special A number of familiar faces join host Jimmy Carr and team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson as they cast their eyes over some of the more memorable stories of 2015.

12.05 Very British Problems at Christmas A one-off return for the show. This time famous faces, including David Tennant, James Corden, Romesh Ranganathan, Catherine Tate and Danny Dyer, grumble about the festive season. (R) **1.05 FILM: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)** A cocky teenager plays truant from school and spends the day dragging his friends into all manner of adventures in the big city. Comedy, starring Matthew Broderick and Mia Sara. ★★★★ **2.50 Friday Night Dinner** Adam finally brings a girl home for dinner. (R) **3.15 Gadget Man** Richard Ayoade takes on the worst of the British weather. (R) **3.40 Gadget Man** Richard Ayoade turns his attention to public transport. (R) **4.10 Benchmark** Game show, hosted by Paddy McGuinness. **4.55 Grand Designs Australia** (R) **5.50 How I Met Your Mother** (R)

3.10 The Wizard of Oz (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. ★★★★

5.10 Michael Buble's Christmas 2015 Festive special, with guest appearances by Celine Dion, Tori Kelly and Sharon Jones. (R)

6.05 Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs A countdown of songs guaranteed to make any Christmas party go with a swing, including classics by the Jackson 5, Jona Lewie, Band Aid, the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, and Slade. (R)

8.50 Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up! Festive entertainment from 1982, with guests including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Cricket, Jim Davidson, Albert Lee and Lennie Peters joining the Cockney duo. (R)

9.40 Britain's Favourite Abba Songs A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrity fans including Jane McDonald and Liz McClarnon introducing their favourite clips. (R)

11.05 Sinatra 100: An All-Star Grammy Concert Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the singer's birth, featuring performances of some of his best-known songs by Tony Bennett, Garth Brooks, Usher and Alicia Keys.

1.25 Abba: Live in Concert The Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979, featuring hits including Voulez-Vous, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. (R) **2.35 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 Christmas with Britain's Biggest Family** The problems posed by the festive season to large families. (R) **4.45 House Doctor** A flat in Kensal Green, west London. (R) **5.10 House Doctor** A property in Spennymoor, Co Durham. (R) **5.35 House Doctor** (R)

Late View

Christmas allergy is nothing to be sneezed at

DOES putting up the Christmas tree leave you sneezing and watery-eyed? You could be allergic to its mould spores, as Kate Whiting reports.

Artificial trees may be convenient, more cost-efficient – not to mention the fact that they don't shed pine needles and require endless vacuum-cleaning or sweeping as a result – but can anything beat the magic of the real thing?

There's the excitement and ritual of picking your tree and then driving it home, the gorgeous festive scent, and just how wonderful it looks all lit up and decorated.

But, for some of us, real Christmas trees do have a very big downside...

The traditional festive centrepiece is harbouring mould, which could be making you unwell. And the longer your tree is up, the worse you could feel.

As many as a third of Brits (35 per cent) suffer from an increase of hay fever-like symptoms at Christmas, with real Christmas trees causing most of the problems, according to a recent poll for Prevalin Allergy.

Dubbed 'Christmas Tree Syndrome', symptoms include itchy nose, watery eyes, wheezing, coughing, chest pains, lethargy and insomnia – and it can even lead to life-threatening pneumonia, in rare serious cases.

Scientists from Upstate Medical University, part of the State University of New York, discovered the condition after they saw an increase in respiratory problems in the weeks leading up to and shortly after December 25. When they analysed pine needles and bark from 28 Christmas trees, they found 53 cases of mould, which releases spores that can trigger allergic reactions in people who are susceptible.

While the mould is naturally occurring, the process of bringing the tree inside creates the perfect environment for it to grow.

Another study found that after two weeks of being on display, the number of airborne mould spores coming from a Christmas tree increases from 800 per 35 cubic-feet to 5,000. So should we all ditch the trees?

Not everybody will experience symptoms, or any ill effects, when exposed to these mould spores.

Like all allergies, the reaction occurs because somebody is personally susceptible, so 'Christmas Tree Syndrome' will only be a problem for those who experience such allergic reactions.

Dr Lawrence Kurlandsky, who conducted the Upstate Medical University research, said at the time: "If you and your children don't have any obvious allergies, then it is probably not going to bother you."

So is a fake tree the best option?

This depends. If you are somebody who suffers from allergies, and conditions like hay fever and asthma, then an artificial tree could also potentially trigger symptoms. "If you have stored your tree since last year, it will have accumulated a layer of dust which will be dispersed when it is disturbed," warns allergens expert, Max Wiseberg – and as many people with allergies and asthma will know, household dust can be problematic. Consider how your store your artificial tree when it's not in use – packing it away in a sealed box will mean less dust accumulates. Also, give it a good clean when you get it out of storage – ideally outside or away from the living room, so that you're not simply displacing the dust around the room. So how can you combat Christmas Tree Syndrome?

Concerned that you or your family might be affected? Max Wiseberg suggests tips. One tip is hosing down your tree before taking it into the house, or after getting it out of storage, can help get rid of some of the mould and spores, though it's probably best to get someone who isn't allergic to do this.

You should also take care when decorating the tree, or again get someone else to do it, as allergens will be disturbed as you move the tree into position and move the branches to hang the baubles and add the lights."

Putting up the tree as late as possible will help minimise the risk, whilst an air purifier may also help. Or try applying an allergen barrier balm, such as HayMax Pure Organic Drug-Free Allergen Barrier Balm (£5.99 for 5ml pot, Boots) around your nostrils, to help stop the allergens getting up your nose.

Gifts made in heaven for festive fashionistas

WANT to make a fashionista's festive dreams come true? Katie Wright reveals the best presents for stylish misses and misters this Christmas

When it comes to Christmas shopping, clothing can be a tricky proposition.

Will it fit? Is it their style? Will they smile politely then shove it in the back of their wardrobe never to be seen again?

But that doesn't mean you have to steer clear of fashion altogether when doing the festive rounds.

Far from it, this season there are heaps of gifts that will delight even the most fashion-forward ladies in your life. And, because a new survey by retailer Intu reveals that 62 per cent of people struggle to buy for the men in their lives, we've got dads, bros and boyfriends covered too.

From jewellery to jumpers, you're guaranteed success with these on-point presents...

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Inspired by Fendi's insanely expensive fluffy bag charms, tons of brands have jumped on the personalisation bandwagon this year – but, truth be told, the results aren't always up to scratch.

Oliver Brown's Velvet Motif Slippers, however, are a cut above the rest. With prices starting from £195, you can have sharks, skulls, scorpions (or other less dangerous designs, or plain old initials) embroidered on a pair of luxurious slip-ons (www.oliverbrown.org.uk).

Same goes for Anthropolgie's cute leather Monogram Pouches, £26 each, which come with a swishy tassel and sequinned initial. You'll have to be quick though; some of the letters are already sold out (www.anthropologie.com).

TRENDY TRINKETS

Chunky, attention-seeking jewellery has taken a back seat this season, so if you're thinking of opting for rings, make sure they're delicate ones that can be mixed, matched and layered, like the OdetteNY Arrow Ring Silver, £87 (Otiumberg.com), or Dafna Stack Rings, £120 for three (GFGJewellery.com).

As for earrings, the 'jacket', where the detail sits on the earring back, is the style du jour, and Mara Pearl Ear Jackets, £11.20, (MyMillyMoo.com), are a real steal.

ECO CHIC

If your gift recipient is all about sustainable style, a Christmas jumper is the way to go – but banish any thoughts of a tinsel-covered, sweatshop-made monstrosity.

Crafted by artisans in Portugal, Tom Cridland's 30 Year Sweatshirts, £55, are guaranteed for, you guessed it, three decades, so can be sent back for repairs at any time. In a variety of colours, the sporty design isn't in danger of going out of style either (www.tomcridland.co.uk).

The knowing knitwear from British brand Fanclub, on the other hand, couldn't be more current. Pop culture-vultures will get a real kick out of the Kimye Hybrid Sweater, £290 (www.wearefanclub.com).

And for the girls, Bonbi Forest's Christmas Limited Edition All Is Bright Slouch Sweater, £25, handprinted with eco-friendly dye, is just about the most stylish Chrimbo jumper you'll find (www.bonbiforest.com).

THROWING SHADE

While we're still trying to get a grip on what we missed in 2015, Pantone has already declared its Colour of 2016, which is, somewhat confusingly, both Rose Quartz and Serenity.

That means pale pink and baby blue, essentially, so make a beeline for these hues to help your giftee get ahead of the fashion game.

And you needn't stick with the traditional gender divide, either: River Island's Pink Waffle Texture T-shirt, £15 (www.riverisland.com), is rose for bros, while Topshop's High Neck Embellished Skater Dress, £38 (www.topshop.com), is spot-on for purply-blue Serenity.

STYLE STEAL

Often, end of year sales are full of spangly frocks and other impractical items, but since Baukjen specialises in classic cuts and quality fabrics, you'll get plenty of wear out of even discounted pieces. The Farrah Double Breasted Coat, a timeless coat if ever there was one, is reduced from £299 to to £179 while stocks last.

Boxing Day

BBC 1

David Jason stars, Still Open All Hours, on at 8.00pm

Early View

6.00 Breakfast A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45. **10.00 Christmas Saturday Kitchen** With Christopher Biggins, Eric Chavot, Pascal Aussignac and Nadiya Hussain. **11.30 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas** Transforming leftovers into simple dishes. (R) **12.15 BBC News;** Weather. **12.25 Football Focus** Dan Walker reviews the week's action. **1.00 Comic Relief 2015: Thanks a Billion!** Lenny Henry revisits comedy highlights from this year's charity event. **2.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out** (R) **2.25 A Grand Night In: The Story of Aardman**

Prime Time

3.25 Puss in Boots (2011) ★★★
4.45 The Croods (2013) ★★★
6.10 Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas
6.40 BBC News
6.50 Midlands Today; Weather
7.00 Dickensian New series. Period drama re-imagining the works of Charles Dickens as inter-connected tales, beginning as ruthless debt collector Jacob Marley makes himself an enemy.
7.30 EastEnders Kat tells Martin that Alfie is still in Spain – unaware he is not far behind her – and Dean is angry with Shirley after she ruins his plans for Christmas dinner.
8.00 Still Open All Hours Granville and Gastric try to get Madge into the festive spirit by organising a cosy drinks party, while a bargain Christmas tree causes problems.
8.30 Dickensian Christmas Day arrives and Inspector Bucket begins his investigation into Jacob Marley's murder, and at Satis House, Amelia Havisham's mysterious rescuer makes another appearance.
9.00 And Then There Were None New series. Ten strangers are stranded on a remote island, and learn there may be a killer in their midst. Period mystery, starring Anna Maxwell Martin. Continues tomorrow.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 The National Lottery Live Ore Oduba with the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.
10.30 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the full programme of Premier League games, including Chelsea v Watford, Manchester City v Sunderland and Stoke City v Manchester United; National Lottery Update

Late View

12.05 FILM: The Guardian (2006) ★★★ **2.15 Weather for the Week Ahead 2.20 BBC News**

BBC 2

Russell Howard stars, A Gert Lush Christmas, on at 9.00pm

6.00 Race to Super Bowl 50 Action from the week 15 fixtures. (R) **6.50 Flog It!** Making a profit at auction. **7.35 FILM: Tom Thumb (1958)** A miniature boy foils the schemes of a pair of crooks and helps a kind musician find true love. Children's musical fantasy, starring Russ Tamblyn, Terry-Thomas and Peter Sellers. ★★★ **9.05 FILM: Hotel for Dogs (2009)** Family comedy, starring Emma Roberts. ★★★ **10.35 Ten Pieces II** The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and guests perform recitals of 10 classical works. **11.35 FILM: G-Force (2009)** Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy. ★★ **1.00 Attenborough's Big Birds: Natural World** (R) **2.00 Attenborough's Paradise Birds** (R)

3.00 Bedtime Stories (2008) Fantasy comedy, starring Adam Sandler. ★★★
4.30 Final Score A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.30 Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story (R)
6.20 We're Doomed!: The Dad's Army Story (R)
7.20 Dad's Army Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
8.00 Top Gear: From A to Z John Bishop narrates the first of two programmes celebrating the highlights of the Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond era, via an alphabetical list.
9.00 A Gert Lush Christmas Comedian Russell Howard's debut comedy drama. Dan Colman is about to introduce the woman of his dreams to his crazy but adorable family at Christmas, but it may not go to plan.
10.00 Abz on the Christmas Farm Abz Love and his girlfriend Vicky Fallon spend Christmas reflecting on the successes and failures of their year running a smallholder farm in Wales.
10.30 Backchat End of Year Show 2015 Jack Whitehall and his father Michael review the past 12 months, picking apart some of the highs and lows of 2015 in an end-of-year special.
11.15 Kinky Boots (2005) A man inherits a struggling shoe factory and finds salvation for his business in a drag artist's need for custom footwear. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Joel Edgerton. ★★★

1.00 FILM: Marnie (1964) ★★★ **3.05 Sign Zone: Imagine – The Ecstasy of Wilko Johnson** (R) **4.40 This Is BBC Two**

ITV

Holly Willoughby presents, Surprise Surprise on at 7.00pm

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **6.25 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story** (R) **7.05 Oddbods** (R) **7.10 Sooty** (R) **7.25 Super 4** (R) **7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.50 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **8.00 The Aquabats! Super Show!** (R) **8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 9.00 The Tom & Jerry Show** (R) **9.15 The Tom & Jerry Show** (R) **9.25 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas** (R) **10.25 You've Been Framed!** (R) **10.55 FILM: Back to the Future Part III (1990)** ★★★ **1.05 ITV News and Weather 1.20 FILM: Jurassic Park (1993)** Action adventure, starring Sam Neill. ★★★★

3.40 Midsomer Murders A man's apparent suicide shocks the village of Morton Fendle – but things take a sinister turn when Barnaby and Jones discover the victim was not alone when he died. (R)
5.40 ITV News and Weather
6.00 The Nation's Favourite Disney Song
7.00 Surprise Surprise Holly Willoughby delivers Christmas presents to members of the public, including an injured soldier preparing to row across the Atlantic and a young heart transplant survivor.
8.00 Peter & Wendy Lucy Rose, a 12-year-old girl with a serious heart condition, is admitted to St Ormond Street Hospital to await treatment. On the night before her operation, Lucy reads JM Barrie's tale of Peter Pan to her fellow patients, and as she eventually drifts off to sleep, her dreaming mind conjures up the magical world of Neverland.
10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special The host presents a Boxing Day special in which he dispenses with his no-holds-barred questions, and instead invites guests to take part in light-hearted games.
11.10 ITV News Including Regional News and ITV Weather; Weather.
11.25 From Russia with Love (1963) James Bond is assigned to steal a top-secret Soviet decoding machine – but the mission is a trap set by crime syndicate Spectre. Spy thriller, with Sean Connery and Robert Shaw. ★★★

1.25 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 Murder, She Wrote** Cabot Cove becomes the scene of deadly competition when an eccentric recluse dies, and Jessica is given the dubious honour of executing the woman's will. (R)

CH4

George Clooney stars, Fantastic Mr Fox, on at 11.25am

6.15 FILM: Ramona and Beezus (2010) Family comedy, starring Joey King. ★★★ **8.00 The Morning Line** Nick Luck and guests are at Kempton Park to preview today's races. **9.00 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard fails to get Sheldon into the Christmas mood. (R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory** The gang reflects on how Sheldon has changed their lives. (R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **10.25 The Simpsons** (R) **10.55 The Simpsons** (R) **11.25 FILM: Fantastic Mr Fox (2009)** A fox gives up stealing chickens in favour of family life, but a new challenge is too tempting. Stop-motion animated adventure, with the voices of George Clooney and Meryl Streep. ★★★ **1.10 Channel 4 Racing**

3.30 Home Alone 3 (1997) Comedy sequel, starring Alex D Linz. ★★★
5.25 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
5.35 The Secret Life of Children at Christmas The children are reunited to perform their own nativity play. (R)
6.30 Britain's Favourite Children's Books with David Walliams The comedy actor counts down through a list of the nation's most beloved children's books, while other celebrity fans read extracts from the selected tales.
8.00 Inside Lego at Christmas Cameras return to the Lego factory ahead of Christmas to discover how staff prepare for the festive season, which accounts for more than half of the firm's annual sales.
9.00 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2015 Rob Brydon, Sue Perkins, David Mitchell, Claudia Winkleman, Greg Davies and Jo Brand reveal whether they have their fingers on the pulse of modern life in the annual quiz.
11.05 Rude Tube Christmas Cracker Alex Zane presents 50 festive internet clips that have proved popular around the world, including a turkey with a boob job and an inventive Christmas tree decoration-remover. (R)

12.10 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special The host is joined by Catherine Tate's Nan, Keith Lemon, Lorraine Kelly, Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. Plus, music by Little Mix and One Direction. Last in the series. (R) **2.05 Rude Tube** Alex Zane counts down the Top 50 online videos devoted to love and marriage. **3.00 Hollyoaks** Omnibus. Ziggy and Celine find Ste sleeping outside after another binge and rush him to hospital, while Reenie receives a invitation to Derek's will reading. (R) **5.10 Location, Location, Location** Two families who were selling up to fund a business. (R)

CH5

Festive cheer, Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud, on at 7.05pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.10 The Saturday Show Matt Barbet and Gaby Roslin present the topical show with three celebrity guests, who discuss the week's headlines, as well as viral videos and the latest TV and film releases. **11.10 The Dog Rescuers at Christmas with Alan Davies** QI regular and comedian Alan Davies throws a party for some of the stars of the series, and award-winning RSPCA officer Derek Hampson hands out presents to rescue dogs across England and Wales. (R) **12.10 The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe** Biopic exploring how the actress and sex symbol managed to hide her most intimate secrets from the press, even at the height of her fame. Starring Kelli Garner and Susan Sarandon.

3.15 Diana (2013) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring Naomi Watts and Naveen Andrews. ★
5.05 One Chance (2013) Premiere. Fact-based comedy drama, starring James Corden. ★★★
7.05 Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud Iain Lee presents Christmas-themed videos that have taken the internet by storm in a seasonal special showcasing hilarious online clips with a festive twist. (R)
8.05 Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up! Festive entertainment from 1982, which sees the Cockney duo joined by celebrity guests Eric Clapton, Jimmy Cricket, Jim Davidson, Albert Lee and Lennie Peters. (R)
9.00 Football League Tonight: Boxing Day Special Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the packed Boxing Day fixture list, including Hull City v Burnley and Derby County v Fulham in the Championship.
10.30 Most Shocking Christmas TV Moments A merry romp through the most inappropriate, outrageous and appallingly atrocious Christmas television turkeys of all time, featuring contributions from some of those involved.

12.30 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Christmas Special The world of debt collection during the festive period. (R) **1.25 SuperCasino** Live interactive gaming. **3.10 Kids' Hospital at Christmas: Revisited** Catching up with the six children who featured in the series. (R) **4.00 Chris Tarrant on the Polar Express** Chris embarks on a 2,000-mile railway trip from Moscow to Arctic Siberia. (R) **4.50 Make It Big** The raffle money goes missing. (R) **5.15 Make It Big** First episode of the reality show following 12 young entrepreneurs. (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm** (R) **5.50 Angels of Jarm** Bindi is jealous of Jess's new coat. (R)

Sunday 27 December

BBC 1

Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show, on at 11.00pm

6.00 Breakfast News, sport and entertainment reports. **7.40 Match of the Day** Gary Lineker presents highlights of Chelsea v Watford. (R) **9.15 FILM: Flushed Away (2006)** Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Hugh Jackman. ★★★ **10.35 FILM: Megamind (2010)** Animated superhero comedy, with the voice of Will Ferrell. ★★★ **12.00 Bargain Hunt** Scouring for antiques in Grimsthorpe, Lincolnshire. **1.00 BBC News;** Weather. **1.15 Songs of Praise** Musical and religious stories from the past year. **1.50 FILM: Mary Poppins (1964)** A practically perfect Edwardian nanny with magical powers brings fun into the humdrum lives of two children. Disney's musical fantasy, starring Julie Andrews. ★★★★

BBC 2

Peter Jones features, Dragons' Den, on at 8.00pm

6.20 Big Dreams Small Spaces Monty Don helps create two gardens inspired by Norway and Japan. Last in the series. (R) **7.20 Countryfile: Cornish Coastal Christmas** (R) **8.15 FILM: A Man for All Seasons (1966)** Oscar-winning historical drama, starring Paul Scofield and Robert Shaw. ★★★★ **10.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** Highlights of the series. **11.45 The Hairy Bikers and Lorraine Pascale: Cooking the Nation's Favourite Food** (R) **12.45 The Secret Life of Mary Poppins: A Culture Show Special** Victoria Coren Mitchell explores the life of writer PL Travers. (R) **1.45 FILM: The Cockleshell Heroes (1955)** Fact-based Second World War drama, with Jose Ferrer. ★★★

ITV

Bath take on Worcestor, Premiership Rugby Union, on at 11.45pm

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **6.25 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story** (R) **7.05 Oddbods** (R) **7.10 Sooty** (R) **7.25 Super 4** (R) **7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.50 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **8.00 The Aquabats! Super Show!** (R) **8.25 Weekend at Christmas 9.25 Countrywise** (R) **9.55 Celebrity Squares** (R) **10.40 FILM: Superman (1978)** Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve. ★★★★ **1.30 ITV News and Weather;** Weather. **1.45 FILM: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007)** Fantasy comedy, starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman. ★★

Ch4

Levison Wood features, Walking the Himalayas, on at 8.00pm

6.05 FILM: Flicka 2 (2010) Family drama, starring Tammin Sursok. ★★★ **7.40 FILM: Paws (1997)** A super-intelligent dog joins forces with a teenage computer whizz to embark on a search for treasure. Family adventure, starring Nathan Cavaleri. ★★★ **9.20 Sunday Brunch** Tim Lovejoy and Simon Rimmer are joined by Johnny Vegas, who discusses his role in Still Open All Hours, as well as Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. **12.20 The Simpsons** Marge allows her hair to turn grey. (R) **12.45 The Simpsons** (R) **1.10 Channel 4 Racing** Live coverage of this afternoon's races, including the 2.35 Welsh Grand National from Chepstow, along with three further races from the course, and three from Kempton Park.

Ch5

Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2015, on at 9.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 Football League Tonight: Boxing Day Special Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the packed Boxing Day fixture list, including Hull City v Burnley and Derby County v Fulham in the Championship. (R) **11.45 FILM: Cromwell (1970)** The rise to power of the Puritan leader during the Civil War years, and his subsequent role as the country's Lord Protector. Historical drama, with Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. ★★★ **2.25 FILM: The Searchers (1956)** An American Civil War veteran searches for his niece, who has been abducted by a renegade Comanche tribe. John Ford's Western, with John Wayne, Natalie Wood and Jeffrey Hunter. ★★★★

Early View

4.05 Oz the Great and Powerful (2013) ★★★
6.05 BBC News
6.20 Midlands Today; Weather
6.30 Countryfile Compilation: The Farming Year
7.30 Dickensian Bucket is convinced that Fagin had a part to play in Marley's murder, and sets off in pursuit of his partner in crime Bill Sikes. Frances plots to ruin her sister's plans.
8.00 Still Open All Hours Granville holds a sale to get rid of his old stock, Nurse Gladys runs into a former patient, and Mrs Featherstone has romance in mind when the neighbourhood has a new arrival.
8.30 Dickensian Amelia is troubled by the arrival of an unexpected guest at the Havishams' New Year's party, while Frances rekindles an old friendship, which she hopes will lead to something more.
9.00 And Then There Were None The death toll on Soldier Island continues to rise. The surviving guests make plans to end the killings, but as they do, the dreadful secrets they are hiding are brought to light. Concludes tomorrow.
10.00 BBC News
10.15 Midlands Today; Weather
10.25 Catherine Tate's Nan The first of two specials featuring the foul-mouthed pensioner. Nan's aggressive attitude gets her into trouble with the police and she is forced to attend anger management classes.
11.00 Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show A filmed performance of stand-up comedy, sketches, songs and dance, from the comedian's nationwide tour.
12.00 FILM: Ghost Town (2008) ★★★ **1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.40 BBC News**

Prime Time

3.20 The Heroes of Telemark (1965) Second World War thriller, starring Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris. ★★★
5.25 Porridge Christmas special from 1975. The inmates plan a Christmas escape. (R)
6.10 Deep Impact (1998) A reporter investigating a presidential misdemeanour stumbles on evidence that a comet is on a collision course with Earth. Sci-fi drama, starring Robert Duvall and Tea Leoni. ★★★
8.00 Dragons' Den The panel cast their eyes over another selection of business pitches, including a product designed to conceal grey hairs and a zombie boot camp. Presented by Evan Davis. (R)
9.00 Gorilla Family and Me Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan returns to the Democratic Republic of Congo and revisits the gorilla family, only to find their lives are now under threat from poachers. (R)
10.00 U2: Innocence and Experience Live in Paris Footage from various performances by the rock band in the French capital, featuring tracks from their most recent album Songs of Innocence as well as classic hits.
12.15 FILM: Telstar: The Joe Meek Story (2008) Biopic charting the career of the influential 1960s record producer, who was ultimately brought down by depression and paranoia. With Con O'Neill, Kevin Spacey and Pam Ferris. ★★★ **2.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile: Cornish Coastal Christmas** Festive reports from Truro, the Cornish fishing village of Coverack, and Hampshire. (R) **3.05 Sign Zone: Holby City** Troubled nurse Fran returns to the hospital. (R) **4.05 Sign Zone: Cue the Queen: Celebrating the Christmas Speech** The history of the monarch's annual televised address to the nation. (R) **5.05 This Is BBC Two** Preview of upcoming programmes.

3.35 Midsomer Murders A rock band's reunion seems doomed. (R)
5.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
5.45 ITV News and Weather
6.00 You've Been Framed! With Bells On Camcorder clips with a festive theme, including a pensioner throwing fireworks at carol singers, a Christmas fairy going up in flames, and a smartphone found inside a turkey. (R)
6.30 Jekyll and Hyde Robert goes into hiding in the country with Ravi and Olalla, but they are soon tracked down by a shapeshifting monster that disguises itself as Lily to deceive him.
7.30 Jekyll and Hyde A revived Dance launches an attack on MIO to complete his mission and resurrect Lord Trash, while Robert discovers that one of his friends has deceived him. Last in the series.
8.30 Harry Price: Ghost Hunter Famous ghost hunter and sceptic Harry Price teams up with maid Sarah Grey to investigate the haunting of a local MP's home. Historical period drama, starring Rafe Spall.
10.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.45 Through the Christmas Keyhole Keith Lemon has a festive rummage through the homes of three celebrities, challenging Stephen Mulhern, Claudia Winkleman and Jimmy Carr to guess their identities. Last in the series. (R)
11.45 Premiership Rugby Union Action from the latest round of fixtures in England's top flight, including Harlequins v Gloucester at Twickenham, Bath v Worcester Warriors and Wasps v Saracens.
12.35 Jackpot247 Interactive gaming. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service. **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** Guests air their differences. (R)

3.35 Hugo (2011) Family adventure, starring Asa Butterfield. ★★★★
5.55 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
6.00 Celebrity Fifteen to One Christmas Special Adam Hills hosts a festive edition of the tit-for-tat general knowledge quiz, featuring 15 celebrities competing to win a big cash prize for charity. (R)
7.00 Million Pound Motors Documentary following a vintage car salesman as he attempts to purchase a valuable collection of rare vehicles, while his apprentice struggles to secure his first sale.
8.00 Walking the Himalayas New series. Explorer Levison Wood attempts to walk the entire length of the Himalayas. Beginning in Afghanistan, he will push himself to the limit as he treks 1,700 miles.
9.00 Homeland Time is running out in the conclusion of the fifth series of the thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists. Claire Danes stars. Last in the series.
10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel quiz, with Johnny Vegas joining Sean Lock to take on Jon Richardson and Katherine Ryan. (R)
11.00 The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird and James Buckley. ★★★
12.55 The Inbetweeners (R) **1.25 The Inbetweeners** (R) **1.55 The Inbetweeners** (R) **2.20 The Inbetweeners** (R) **2.50 FILM: That Touch of Mink (1962)** Romantic comedy, starring Cary Grant and Doris Day. ★★★ **4.30 Benchmark 5.15 Location, Location, Location** (R)

4.45 Escape to Victory (1981) Second World War adventure, starring Michael Caine. ★★★
7.00 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the opening heat of the competition in Malaysia. British hopes were resting on the broad shoulders of the likes of Eddie Hall and Mark Felix.
7.55 5 News Weekend Round-up of the day's headlines from around the world.
8.00 On Benefits: Cashing in for Christmas Christmas for people living on state welfare, including a woman struggling to buy gifts for her eight children and two friends who rummage through shops' bins. (R)
9.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2015 Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of the year, including Bruce Jenner's transition to Caitlyn and the Top Gear bust-up involving Jeremy Clarkson.
11.55 The Last Hours of Robin Williams Forensic pathologist Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of actor and comedian Robin Williams, whose body was discovered at his San Francisco home in August 2014. (R)
12.55 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 A Primary School Nativity** One-off edition of the documentary about life at Gascoigne Primary School in Barking, east London, this time following staff and pupils during the hectic build-up to Christmas. (R) **4.00 House Doctor** A bland property near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. (R) **4.25 Make It Big** Things are not going to plan for Graham. (R) **4.50 Make It Big** The youngsters organise a charity auction. (R) **5.20 Make It Big** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm** (R) **5.50 Angels of Jarm** Angel Rafe protects the children in the kitchen. (R)

Late View

Internet is reinventing Christmas advertising

THE internet is reinventing the Christmas TV commercial, making it more creative, more ambitious – and arguably more self-regarding.

Advertising plays a central role at Christmas, and for over 100 years has extended its reach from posters to radio, TV and now online.

Successfully making that last leap has become the holy grail of Christmas advertising.

"The strategy among the retailers now is to get the ad into a prime time spot," says Neil Saunders, managing director of retail research agency Conlumino.

"From then on TV becomes less important as the message goes off into social media, where there is less cost and the reach can be phenomenal, far greater than TV."

So, let's look at how that works with one of the most famous, the John Lewis ManOnTheMoon commercial.

In early November it launched the ad, telling the story of a small child who sees a lonely old man through a telescope living on the moon, and sends him a Christmas present by balloon.

Conventional wisdom might assume that the campaign should spark interest in the retailer – John Lewis – but there's barely a mention of the name.

Instead the aim seems to be to spark interest in the ad itself.

To this end John Lewis actually advertised the advertisement with a 10-second teaser commercial a week before it went live, and fired up social media interest with the #ManOnTheMoon hashtag.

Three hours after the advert was aired, #ManOnTheMoon was trending with 40,000 tweets.

And it doesn't stop there. Of the £7m spent on the campaign, John Lewis spent only £1m on the ad itself, which is just the tip of a merchandising iceberg.

There's an app offering moon-related information. There's a tie-in with a game that can be played on mobiles, sending your presents to the moon by balloon, though at this point Christmas sentimentality is abandoned in favour of eluding surface-to-air missiles.

Then there's a link-in with ManOnTheMoon telescopes, pyjamas, bedding, mugs and so on.

"The key to the John Lewis ad is that people no longer watch real-time television," says Jacques de Cock of the London School of Marketing.

"They defer their watching to Netflix or YouTube, and to capitalise on this market advertisers have to make their ads into social phenomena."

The reality is that companies are having to make contact with a customer whose habits are dictated not by TV but by the internet.

For instance, view the new Harvey Nichols commercial and the last frame has a "Shop Now" button to take you straight to the store. You can't do that on TV.

But the customer is doing a lot more than just clicking and buying.

He or she is researching, comparing prices and browsing online, before either clicking or physically marching into the store and demanding the socks over the counter.

According to Forrester Research, by 2020, 53 per cent of retail sales across Europe will be influenced one way or another by the online world.

So it is not important to an advertiser by what mechanism the money is spent. What matters is where the customer makes up his or her mind – and that space is increasingly a digital one. All of which shapes the way ads are made.

Sainsbury's advert "Mog's Christmas Calamity" written by the writer and illustrator Judith Kerr, runs for a full three and a half minutes. The traditional TV ad break spot could never support that on a regular basis – but the internet can.

Lifting time restrictions allows for a great deal more creativity. And there are other opportunities to add nuances to your brand.

Click on the end of the Sainsbury's commercial and up come links to Judith Kerr's book, the making of the commercial, Save the Children, competitions, recipes and of course Sainsbury's produce.

"Retail is the new rock and roll in advertising," says James Murphy, chief executive of adam&eveDDB, which made the John Lewis ad. "It is a great shop window for your creativity and for your effectiveness."

Gadgets will make your life a lot easier

FORGET spending all day in the kitchen, make your Christmas dinner with ease using these time and space saving gadgets...

Peel it back – Zipeela, £24.99, from Lakeland, www.lakeland.co.uk

This fruit and veg peeler is a marvellous time saver. Stick your produce on the prong at the base of the gadget, adjust the clamp so the spike is firmly in place, and ensure the peeler sits at the top of your fruit/veg. Switch it on and, as your food rotates, the blade will remove the skin.

Hot stuff – VonShef Double Hot Plate, £26.99, from Domu, www.domu.co.uk

You've got potatoes, carrot, swede and the Christmas pudding on the go, but there's still the sprouts and cabbage to boil. If only you had another couple of hob plates, you could whittle through dinner in no time. Luckily, with this cheap counter-top accessory you can! A simple device, it comes with two plates that will help you get through your Christmas dinner cooking when you need as much help as possible. There are four temperature options and if the oven is filled with turkey, stuffing and Yorkshires, you can use the VonShef gadget as a plate warmer too.

Cut like a knife – Tower 180W Electric Knife, £24.99, from Tower Housewares, www.tower-housewares.co.uk

Hate carving the turkey or gammon? This knife will make light work of it! Easy to grip, the knife may come with 180W of power, but it will sit comfortably in your hand without vibrating. While you may prefer to slice it out of the view of your dinner party, it's a low-noise gizmo, so it won't be overbearing if you choose to 'carve' at the table.

Weigh to go – Drop D600A Connected Kitchen Scale, £79.99, Currys, www.currys.co.uk

One for Apple (the tech giant, not fruit) lovers, this set of scales will aid you in your recipe making. The small scale is wireless but connects to your iPad via the accompanying Drop Kitchen app. Then simply find the recipe on the app that you want to follow and, as the instructions pop up, drop ingredients into the bowl before mixing and cooking. The benefit of these scales is that it amends recipes when required. For example, if you're keen to make a cake for 12 but the recipe feeds 24, it will pick up on the fact that you've only put in half the weight of the first ingredient and ask you if you want to resize the recipe, click yes and it will then change the rest of the ingredients accordingly.

Full control – Total Control Hand Blender Pro set, £69.99, from Morphy Richards, www.morphyrichards.co.uk

Whether you want your bread sauce to be lump-free or you're starting with a soup, blenders can be a great kitchen accessory come Christmas. This one in particular comes with really useful attachments and technology to avoid making a mess when you're busy. Do you ever find that when you're blending food, you have that annoying moment where it powers on far too quickly, sending ingredients toppling out of the bowl or jug? If so, help is at hand. This comes with 'Smart Response Technology', which will build up speed slowly. Onto the attachments, there's a potato masher, whisk and a chopping vessel and with eight speed settings as well as pulse and turbo functions, you might find that this one device is all you need when it comes to kitchen tools this Christmas.

Handle the pressure – Sage by Heston Blumenthal BPR700BSS The Fast Slow Pro Slow Cooker, £199.95, from John Lewis, www.johnlewis.com

We all (well, most of us) love a figgy pudding but, if you're making your own, it can involve the pud spending hours in a pressure cooker using up valuable hob space. However, as you may have guessed by the name of this Heston Blumenthal kitchen gadget, you can instead plonk it in here and cook it far faster while freeing up the hob for other dishes.

Monday 28 December

BBC 1

Burn Gorman stars, And Then There Were None, on at 9.05pm

Early View

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. **9.00 FILM: Bee Movie (2007)** Animated comedy, with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld. ★★★ **10.20 Old Jack's Boat Special: Storm in a Teacup** Clumsy Ernie ruins plans for a tea festival at the Mermaid Cafe. **11.00 FILM: Bolt (2008)** Animated adventure, with the voice of John Travolta. ★★★ **12.30 Bargain Hunt** Two teams search for antiques in Peterborough. (R) **1.10 BBC News 1.25 Midlands Today 1.30 Father Brown** Suspicion grows concerning a supposed accidental drowning. (R) **2.20 FILM: Cool Runnings (1993)** Fact-based sporting comedy, starring John Candy. ★★★

Prime Time

3.55 The Gruffalo With the voice of Robbie Coltrane. (R)
4.25 Madagascar (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. ★★★
5.45 Pointless (R)
6.30 BBC News; Weather.
6.45 Midlands Today; Weather
7.00 Celebrity Mastermind Tom Kerridge, Steph Houghton, Rob Delaney and Dominic Wood answer questions on Oasis, The Only Way Is Essex, John Belushi and Harry Houdini.
7.30 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death The duo open their own bakery and business is soon booming – not least because their potential rivals have all been killed by a mysterious assassin. (R)
8.00 EastEnders Dean's drunken behaviour spirals out of control – leading to a shocking discovery by Shirley. Alfie confronts Kat to ask why she left Spain and Whitney has bad news for Mick.
8.30 Miranda The very last episode of the hit sitcom sees the shopkeeper making one final attempt to accept herself and find contentment. Miranda Hart stars, with Patricia Hodge and Tom Ellis. (R)
9.05 And Then There Were None The remaining guests must turn to one another for comfort and protection as the likelihood of survival rapidly diminishes, but trust is in short supply. Last in the series.
10.05 BBC News
10.20 Midlands Today; Weather
10.30 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Manchester United v Chelsea at Old Trafford and Arsenal v Bournemouth at the Emirates Stadium.
12.00 Lewis Hamilton: Making History – F1 2015 Review (R) **1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead**

BBC 2

Arabella Weir stars, Two Doors Down, on at 10.50pm

6.15 Homes Under the Hammer Properties in Cheshire and Kent. (R) **7.15 Escape to the Continent** (R) **7.45 Sign Zone: This Wild Life** (R) **8.15 Sign Zone: This Wild Life** (R) **8.45 FILM: Ivanhoe (1952)** Medieval adventure, starring Robert Taylor. ★★★ **10.30 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure** Si and Dave sample life in Finland. (R) **11.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down** The six remaining potters make a garden sculpture out of slabs of clay. (R) **12.30 Les Dawson Talking Comedy** Clips featuring the comedian. (R) **1.00 The Bear Family and Me** Gordon Buchanan follows a family of wild black bears for a year. (R) **2.00 Coast** The team focuses on the Irish Sea and its surrounding land. (R)

3.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth Documentary examining the natural forces underpinning life in the Atlantic. (R)
4.00 Flog It! James Lewis and Kate Bliss value items in Stroud. (R)
4.30 Final Score A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.30 The Clare Balding Show
6.00 What Women Want (2000) Romantic comedy, starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. ★★★
8.00 Christmas University Challenge Teams made up of distinguished alumni of the universities of Aberdeen and Sheffield compete, with both sides hoping to secure a place in the semi-finals.
8.30 Only Connect The concluding quarter-final sees the Wayfarers take on the Bookworms in the lateral-thinking quiz. Victoria Coren Mitchell asks the questions.
9.00 Behind the Candelabra (2013) Premiere. Biopic of pianist Liberace, following his secret five-year relationship with a younger man. Directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon. ★★★
10.50 Two Doors Down A Scottish couple face a chaotic time as they host a New Year's Eve party for their friends. One-off comedy, starring Arabella Weir, Alex Norton, Daniela Nardini and Doon Mackichan. (R)
11.50 Dragons' Den The panel cast their eyes over another selection of business pitches, including a product designed to conceal grey hairs and a zombie boot camp. Presented by Evan Davis. (R)
12.50 Sign Zone: The Apprentice (R) **2.50 Sign Zone: Doctor Who** (R) **3.50 This Is BBC Two**

ITV

The lives of hedgehogs, Hedgehog Hotel, on at 5.30pm

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) **6.15 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Sooty** (R) **6.35 Super 4** (R) **6.50 Super 4** (R) **7.00 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.15 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.30 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.45 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **8.00 The Tom & Jerry Show** (R) **8.10 The Tom & Jerry Show** (R) **8.25 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **8.40 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **8.55 Horrid Henry** (R) **9.10 Horrid Henry** (R) **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal** (R) **10.30 Judge Rinder** (R) **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **12.30 Catchphrase** (R) **1.15 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather. **1.20 ITV News Central;** Weather. **1.30 Our Cilla** (R) **2.30 Surprise Surprise** (R)

3.30 Midsomer Murders Barnaby investigates reports of a headless horseman. (R)
5.30 Hedgehog Hotel
6.25 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45 ITV Evening News; Weather.
7.00 Emmerdale Zak tries to undo the damage he has caused, as Lisa comforts Belle and Cain warns Joanie to stay away from his family, while Aaron is questioned by the police.
7.30 Coronation Street Johnny receives an email that leaves him reeling, and Carla is concerned when he drags her back to his flat to talk. Meanwhile, Tracy confides in Beth that she still loves Rob.
8.00 Countrywise Liz Bonnin takes part in the National Trust's biggest coastal wildlife survey, while Paul Heiney learns about traction engines at the Great Dorset Steam Fair. Last in the series.
8.30 Coronation Street Carla is stunned by a revelation from Johnny, while Rob shocks Tracy by admitting that he has been leading her on and simply wanted to ruin her life as she did his.
9.00 John Bishop's Gorilla Adventure The comedian leaves the relative comfort of the stage behind to observe mountain gorillas in the forests of Rwanda, and learns about the work necessary to protect the species.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.
10.14 ITV Central Weather
10.15 The Holiday (2006) Two single women from opposite sides of the Atlantic find love after they swap houses over Christmas. Romantic comedy, with Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black and Jude Law. ★★
12.45 Jackpot247 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R) **3.55 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

Ch4

Highlights of the show, Gogglebox 2015, on at 9.00pm

6.10 Small Animal Hospital 6.50 FILM: See Spot Run (2001) Comedy, starring David Arquette. ★★★ **8.35 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **9.05 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **9.35 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **10.05 FILM: Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011)** Premiere. Comedy, starring Jordana Beatty. ★★ **11.50 The Simpsons** (R) **12.15 The Simpsons** Marge becomes obsessed with peach-based desserts. (R) **12.45 The Simpsons** Fat Tony and Selma marry after a whirlwind romance. (R) **1.15 FILM: Marmaduke (2010)** Comedy, starring Lee Pace. ★ **2.55 FILM: Stuart Little 2 (2002)** Premiere. Family adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J Fox. ★★★

4.25 Mirror Mirror (2012) Fantasy, starring Julia Roberts. ★★★
6.30 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
6.35 Hollyoaks Lindsey is annoyed when the annual Roscoes' Boxing Day football match interrupts her time alone with Joe, while Peri is suspicious about her uncle's whereabouts.
7.05 A Frozen Christmas Documentary exploring the success of the luxury ice-sculpting business, meeting artists responsible for creating bespoke frozen artworks.
8.00 The World's Most Expensive Food The luxury food suppliers who cater to the super-rich, including a New Yorker pitching his high-end chocolate to a specialist retailer, a group of wealthy customers, and Harrods.
9.00 Gogglebox 2015 Highlights of the past year on Gogglebox, revisiting comments from armchair critics including Leon and June, Steph and Dom, Christopher and Stephen, and Sandy and Sandra.
10.35 Tattoo Fixers New series. Return of the programme in which tattoo artists try to fix inked catastrophes, beginning with a man who wants to disguise the tattoo he got to win an argument.
11.40 David Blaine: Real or Magic The illusionist performs mind-boggling tricks for a host of celebrities, including Katy Perry, Will Smith, Kanye West, Jamie Foxx, Ricky Gervais and Stephen Hawking. (R)
12.50 FILM: The Omen (1976) Horror, starring Gregory Peck. ★★★ **2.45 FILM: The China Syndrome (1979)** The company controlling a nuclear plant tries to cover up a potentially horrific disaster before the story leaks and is broadcast. Thriller, starring Michael Douglas and Jane Fonda. ★★★ **4.45 Benchmark 5.35 Gadget Man** Richard Ayoade and Phill Jupitus go on a day out. (R)

Ch5

Action from the second heat, World's Strongest Man 2015, on at 6.55pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the opening heat of the competition in Malaysia. British hopes were resting on the broad shoulders of the likes of Eddie Hall and Mark Felix. (R) **10.50 FILM: An American in Paris (1951)** A struggling American painter living in France is torn between two women – his wealthy patroness and an engaged Frenchwoman. Oscar-winning musical, with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. ★★★★ **1.00 FILM: Anchors Aweigh (1945)** Two sailors on shore leave in Hollywood encounter a local beauty and her nephew – a youngster eager to join the Navy. Musical, with Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson and Dean Stockwell. ★★★

3.55 High Society (1956) ★★★
6.00 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild (R)
6.55 World's Strongest Man 2015
7.50 5 News Tonight A round-up of the evening's headlines, including coverage of the latest national and international stories.
8.00 Building the Ice Hotel The work of builders constructing Icehotel, a sophisticated structure built every year since 1990 in the village of Jukkasjarvi – more than 120 miles inside the Arctic Circle; (R) 5 News Update
9.00 The Frank Sinatra Story Profile of the singer and actor, from a uniquely British perspective, charting his career across seven decades from young singer in Hoboken, New Jersey, to international stardom.
10.00 Frank Sinatra Live in New York A 1974 show at Madison Square Garden in which the singer performs classics including All the Way, The Lady Is a Tramp, I've Got You Under My Skin, My Kind of Town and My Way.
11.00 Frank Sinatra & Gene Kelly: Ol' Blues Eyes Is Back A TV special from 1973 in which Frank Sinatra performs a selection of classic songs and is joined for a couple of numbers by Anchors Aweigh co-star Gene Kelly. (R)
11.35 Happy Holidays with Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby The veteran crooners' festive special from 1957, with songs including Away in a Manger, The Christmas Song, Santa Claus Is Coming to Town and White Christmas. (R)
12.05 Football League Tonight 1.35 SuperCasino 3.10 The Dog Rescuers at Christmas with Alan Davies (R) **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge** (R) **4.25 Divine Designs** (R) **4.50 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 House Doctor** (R)

Tuesday 29 December

BBC 1

John Humphrys hosts, Celebrity Mastermind, on at 7.00pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **7.30 Match of the Day** Gary Lineker presents highlights of Manchester United v Chelsea. (R) **9.00 FILM: Shark Tale (2004)** Animated comedy, with the voice of Will Smith. ★★ **10.20 FILM: Cars 2 (2011)** Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Owen Wilson. ★★★ **12.00 Bargain Hunt** Two teams compete in Edinburgh. (R) **12.45 BBC News;** Weather. **1.00 Midlands Today; Weather 1.10 Father Brown** (R) **2.00 FILM: National Treasure (2004)** A treasure-hunter sets out to find a war chest hidden by America's founding fathers before a treacherous rival gets hold of it. Action adventure, with Nicolas Cage and Diane Kruger. ★★★

BBC 2

Josh Widdicombe joins Alan Davies, QI, on at 10.00pm

6.15 Homes Under the Hammer Lots in Wiltshire, London and Devon. (R) **7.15 Escape to the Continent** (R) **7.45 Sign Zone: This Wild Life** (R) **8.15 Sign Zone: An Island Parish: Falklands** (R) **8.45 FILM: Show Boat (1951)** Musical romance, with Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel. ★★★★ **10.30 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure** (R) **11.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down** (R) **12.30 Peter Sellers Talking Comedy** Clips featuring the comedian and actor. (R) **1.00 The Bear Family and Me** Gordon Buchanan discovers black bear cub Hope has been abandoned. (R) **2.00 Coast** Britain's first lifeboat station and how ferries cope with stormy seas. (R)

ITV

Andrew Garfield stars, The Amazing Spider-Man, on at 7.30pm

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) **6.15 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Sooty** (R) **6.40 Super 4** (R) **7.00 Good Morning Britain** News, current affairs and lifestyle features. **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal** The antiques dealers visit Barnsley in South Yorkshire. (R) **10.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Former swimmer Mark Foster hosts a dinner party. (R) **11.30 Pick Me!** Game show featuring lively, loud and energetic players. (R) **12.30 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather. **12.35 ITV News Central;** Weather. **12.45 FILM: Evan Almighty (2007)** Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. ★★★ **2.30 Midsomer Murders** A convicted murderer is suspected of a new killing. (R)

Ch4

Jack Black stars, Gulliver's Travels, on at 4.35pm

6.05 Small Animal Hospital John Barrowman meets a brave cat who has developed a mouth tumour. **6.45 FILM: Dr Dolittle: Million Dollar Mutts (2009)** Comedy sequel, starring Kyla Pratt. ★★ **8.15 The Big Bang Theory** Penny makes an important decision. (R) **8.45 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **9.10 The Big Bang Theory** Amy tries to find Raj a date. (R) **9.40 The Simpsons** (R) **10.10 The Simpsons** (R) **10.40 FILM: Captain Ron (1992)** Comedy adventure, starring Kurt Russell. ★★ **12.40 FILM: New in Town (2009)** Romantic comedy, starring Renee Zellweger and Harry Connick Jr. ★★ **2.30 FILM: Coraline (2009)** Stop-motion animated fantasy, with the voice of Dakota Fanning. ★★★★

Ch5

Action from the third heat, World's Strongest Man 2015, on at 7.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.05 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the second heat of the competition. (R) **10.05 Football League Tonight** Highlights and all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two. (R) **11.35 Ice Road Truckers** (R) **12.30 FILM: Carry On Nurse (1959)** The disgruntled patients on the men's ward of a hospital plan revenge on the stern matron sent to keep them under control. Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams. (b/w) ★★★ **2.15 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954)** An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany's industrial heartland. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Michael Redgrave. (b/w) ★★★★

Early View

4.00 The Gruffalo's Child (R)
4.25 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008) ★★
5.45 Pointless (R)
6.30 BBC News; Weather.
6.45 Midlands Today; Weather
7.00 Celebrity Mastermind Vincent Franklin, Christian Malcolm, Chris Warburton and Graham Fellowes answer questions on Disney-Pixar films, Olympic sprinting, Reeves and Mortimer, and Donald Crowhurst.
7.30 EastEnders Shirley is left horrified when she discovers Dean attacking Roxy and quickly comes to her aid – leading to a realisation that may change the Carters for ever.
8.00 Holby City Serena has resigned herself to another lonely New Year's Eve, but fate has other ideas, and Ric Griffin returns, but struggles to find his place in the hospital.
9.00 David Beckham: For the Love of the Game Cameras follow David Beckham as he attempts to play a football match on all seven continents in under 10 days and get back in time for his own fundraising match at Old Trafford.
10.15 BBC News
10.30 Midlands Today; Weather
10.40 Peter Kay's Car Share John has had a fancy new hands-free phone kit fitted in his car, but he arrives at Kayleigh's house only to discover she is far more excited by the previous night's events. (R)
11.10 Mrs Brown's Boys Agnes vows to make her nativity play unforgettable – although her patience is severely tested when her friends and family keep badgering her for the best parts. (R)
11.40 Boomers The couples have an uncomfortable train journey on Christmas Eve. (R)
12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead 12.15 BBC News

3.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth Dolphin pods and penguin colonies in the South Atlantic. (R)
4.00 Flog It! Antique selling in Barnsley. (R)
4.55 Super-Powered Owls: Natural World An investigation into owls' heightened abilities. (R)
5.55 Finding Neverland (2004) Fact-based period drama, starring Johnny Depp. ★★★★
7.30 Christmas University Challenge Teams made up of distinguished alumni of the University of Durham and the London School of Economics compete, with both sides hoping to secure a place in the semi-finals.
8.00 Gareth Malone's Great Choir Reunion To mark the 10th anniversary of The Choir, Gareth Malone tracks down members from all the choirs who have participated in the series to bring them together for a reunion.
9.00 A Life on Screen – Stephen Fry In this documentary, Stephen Fry tells the story behind his success, with contributions from Michael Sheen, Hugh Laurie and Alan Davies.
10.00 QI Sarah Millican, Tommy Tiernan and Josh Widdicombe compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies, as Stephen Fry probes the subject of Messing with Your Mind.
10.30 Albert Nobbs (2011) A woman living in disguise as a man in 19th-century Ireland decides to find a wife after a meeting with a fellow cross-dresser. Drama, with Glenn Close and Mia Wasikowska. ★★★
12.15 Race to Super Bowl 50 1.05 Top Gear: From A-Z (R) **2.05 Sign Zone: Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns** (R) **3.05 Sign Zone: Back in Time for Christmas** (R) **4.05 Sign Zone: The Naked Choir with Gareth Malone** (R) **5.05 This Is BBC Two** Preview of upcoming programmes.

Prime Time

4.30 The Queen (2006) Fact-based drama about how the royal family and Tony Blair dealt with the aftermath of the death of Princess Diana. Starring an Oscar-winning Helen Mirren, with Michael Sheen. ★★★★
6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45 ITV Evening News; Weather.
7.00 Emmerdale Kerry is shocked to learn that Cain has threatened Joanie and takes matters into her own hands, while Lisa tries to resolve the crisis in her family.
7.30 The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the mysterious past of his dead parents, leading him to a shady corporation and an incident that imbues him with superhuman powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a deadly transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield. ★★★
10.10 ITV News; Weather.
10.24 ITV Central Weather
10.25 American Pie (1999) Four teenage boys make a pact to lose their virginity before the high-school prom, but cause huge embarrassment in the process. Coming-of-age comedy, starring Jason Biggs, Chris Klein and Alyson Hannigan. ★★★
12.05 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen**

4.35 Gulliver's Travels (2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black, Emily Blunt, Jason Segel and Billy Connolly. ★★
6.10 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
6.30 Hollyoaks Maxine refuses to agree to help Patrick die after the vow renewal ceremony, while Lindsey feels isolated from Joe, so she stages a break-in at the Roscoes' house.
7.00 Inside Lego at Christmas Cameras return to the Lego factory ahead of Christmas to discover how staff prepare for the festive season, which accounts for more than half of the firm's annual sales. (R)
8.00 The Supervet at Christmas Festive edition of the documentary. A sleigh-pulling Alaskan malamute needs both knees replacing with implants, but his owners are forced to make a difficult decision. (R)
9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats End of Year Special Host Jimmy Carr and team captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock discuss and dissect the funniest stories that have made the headlines in 2015.
10.00 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2015 Rob Brydon, Sue Perkins, David Mitchell, Claudia Winkleman, Greg Davies and Jo Brand reveal whether they have their fingers on the pulse of modern life in the annual quiz. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)
12.05 FILM: Kingdom of Heaven (2005) Historical epic, starring Orlando Bloom. ★★★ **2.30 Peep Show** Mark invites his parents over for Christmas lunch. (R) **2.55 Peep Show** Mark has a new flatmate and has landed a job in a bank. (R) **3.25 Peep Show** Mark is feeling the pressure. (R) **3.50 Gadget Man** (R) **4.15 Benchmark 5.05 Location, Location, Location** Revisiting two couples who wanted to live by the sea. (R)

4.40 What the Dambusters Did Next Missions undertaken by 617 Squadron after the May 1943 raids on the Ruhr and Eder valleys. (R)
6.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild It is June at Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, and cameras follow the newborns as they learn to fight, find food and avoid predators. (R)
7.00 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the third heat of the competition in Malaysia. Reigning champion Zydrunas Savickas took part alongside two-time Britain's Strongest Man Laurence Shahlaei; 5 News Update
8.00 Help! I'm Snowtrapped Real-life stories of people who became trapped by snow, including a skier who was buried alive in Verbier, Switzerland, after triggering an avalanche; (R) 5 News Update
9.00 Flowers in the Attic (2014) Premiere. A widow persuades her children to go into hiding, resulting in them suffering abuse at the hands of their grandmother. Drama based on VC Andrews' novel, starring Heather Graham and Ellen Burstyn. ★★★
10.45 Erin Brockovich (2000) A single mother goes to work at a law firm and ends up taking on a company suspected of contaminating a small town's water supply. Fact-based drama, starring Julia Roberts. ★★★★
1.15 SuperCasino Live interactive gaming. **3.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Christmas Special** The world of debt collection during the festive period. (R) **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan plays elephant mother. (R) **4.25 Divine Designs** (R) **4.45 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 House Doctor** (R)

Late View

Delightful decorations are cracking festive treats

TREAT your guests to more than just a paper hat and a joke this Christmas. Katie Wright rounds up this season's best beauty decorations

Flimsy paper crowns and eye-rollingly bad jokes may be a time-honoured festive tradition, but if you want to induce gasps of delight rather than groans around the dinner table, you need to up your cracker game.

And when it comes to banging decorations, no one does it better than beauty brands, with more and more luxurious, treat-filled crackers on the shelves every year.

Add to that the gorgeous array of baubles to truss-up your tree, and you're looking at your most beautiful Yuletide yet.

Offering the best bang for your buck are the boxes of crackers filled with beauty minis. Baylis & Harding Midnight Fig & Pomegranate Christmas Crackers, reduced from £10 to £5 for pack of four (www.houseoffraser.co.uk), contain either a body wash or lotion in that fruity infusion, while Sanctuary Surprises Crackers, £10 for four, conceal the same products, but slightly larger, and in a variety of scents (www.sanctuary.com). The biggest bargain, however, comes with Superdrug's make-up-filled Flutter Crackers, reduced from £6 to £4.50 for five (www.superdrug.com).

Moving upmarket, you'll find a handbag-ready hand cream inside each MOR My One And Only Lychee Flower Little Luxuries Hand Cream Cracker, reduced from £8 to £6 each (FeelUnique.com), and Decleor's Hand Cream Cracker Skincare Gift Set, £10.80 each (www.johnlewis.com), while the Margaret Dabbs Fabulous Cracker, £12, contains a nourishing cuticle serum (www.margaretdabbs.co.uk).

OK, so putting one at the top of each place setting is likely a logistical (and financial) stretch, but if you want to treat a special someone, it doesn't get much better than the gigantic Jo Malone Ultimate Christmas Cracker, £205, which encases four full-size favourites from the luxury brand (www.jomalone.co.uk).

And what about some beautiful baubles? Small enough to hang on the higher boughs, Burt's Classics Pomegranate Gift Set, £6.99 (www.burtsbees.co.uk), and Mandara's Spa Shimmer Lip Balm Bauble, £4 (www.sainsburys.co.uk), are fashioned in festive red and come with lip-smackingly scented treats inside.

If you're hosting the big family do this year, make your hands and your home presentable with the No7 Star Bauble, £6 (www.boots.com), which contains a Stay Perfect nail polish, or a Heathcote & Ivory Rainforest Hand Treats Bauble, £5 (www.heathcote-ivory.com).

For all-over pampering, pair the fizz on your festive table with a Champagne-inspired Molton Brown Vintage 2015 With Elderflower Festive Bauble, £11, which is filled with sparkling body wash, and then follow it up with a Ted Baker Mini Treasure Bauble, available in Pink or Mint, £4, which conceals a little pot of body souffle (www.boots.com).

And when the entertaining is finally at an end, you can crack open the jumbo Melvita Christmas Treats Bauble, reduced to £11 from £15 (www.melvita.com), to reveal a trio of fragrant fancies, and the Scentered Stress Less Balm Bauble, £14.50 – just roll on the chamomile infused scent and relax (www.scentered.me).

And what about some beauty news for the festive season.

Getting a new 'do, or switching up your lippy, is common for ladies ahead of the festive party season, but did you know that men are also most likely to revamp their look at this time of year? That's according to research from Braun, which found that Christmas Eve is the optimum time for a facial hair restyle (67 per cent).

Blokes in Northern Ireland are most likely to opt for a Yuletide spruce-up (90 per cent), with those in the North West coming second (74 per cent).

And finally, how long does it take you to get ready for a Christmas party? Geographically speaking, there's an East/West divide, as a new survey from British Gas reveals that Liverpudlians and Mancunians take the longest (67 and 63 minutes respectively), while Sheffield and Newcastle bring up the rear, taking 47 and 52 minutes on average.

Leftover dishes that are certain to impress

CHRISTMAS is a time of family feasting, but even the heartiest of appetites can be left struggling to finish off every last morsel. Liz Gray whips up a couple or recipes to help you use up those leftovers.

STILTON CHEESE AND FENLAND CELERY PASTIES

Flaky pastry encases a delectable filling of potato, Stilton cheese and diced Fenland celery.

These pasties are perfect for using up any leftover Stilton and ideal for a family supper.

Suitable for freezing before baking.

Serves: Six
Preparation time: 20 mins
Cooking time: 30-35 mins

Ingredients:
Two large potatoes, peeled and diced
One tsp English mustard powder
200g Stilton cheese, crumbled
Four sticks Fenland celery, diced
450g ready-made puff pastry
One free-range egg, beaten with tablespoon milk
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:
1. Pre-heat oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Grease and line a large baking sheet with greaseproof paper.
2. Boil the potatoes until they are soft enough to mash; mash them until they are smooth, then add the mustard powder, crumbled Stilton cheese and the diced celery. Season to taste with salt and pepper and set aside.
3. Roll the pastry out on a well-floured board and stamp out circles with a saucer or small plate, to about 5" (13cms) in diameter.
4. Spoon some of the filling mixture over one half, moisten the edges of the pastry then fold the pastry over to form a crescent and seal by crimping around the edges with your fingers or a fork.
5. Place the pasties on the baking sheet, cut a slit to allow the steam to escape and brush them all over with the beaten egg and milk mixture. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until they are golden brown.
6. Remove the pasties from the oven and allow to cool slightly before serving warm, or cold.

Cook's tip: Fenland celery is a heritage variety of celery grown in the Cambridgeshire Fens. In 2013, Fenland celery was awarded Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status and joined the ranks of Parma ham, Champagne and Melton Mowbray Pork Pies.

Fenland celery is available from October to December and can be found in Waitrose, Marks & Spencer and Tesco stores nationwide and online at Ocado.

Recipe from: www.fenland-celery.com

TURKEY, WATERCRESS AND MOZZARELLA WRAP

This is the perfect light lunch for using up those festive leftovers.

Replace mozzarella with brie, goats, or other leftover cheese of your choice.

Serves: Two
Preparation Time: 10 minutes
Cooking Time: Five minutes

Ingredients:
150g cooked turkey, cut into small chunks
Small handful of shredded mozzarella
Two large flour tortillas (we used seeded ones)
One red or yellow pepper, sliced
½ red onion, finely sliced
½ tsp chilli flakes
15 pitted olives, black or green, quartered
One handful watercress
One handful of spinach
Few torn basil leaves
For the dressing, one tbsp honey and 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard, mixed

Method:
1. Put a thin layer of the mozzarella on the tortillas.
2. Spoon the other ingredients out evenly on top.
3. Finally, drizzle the dressing over the filling, roll it all up, tucking in the sides like a burrito and cook it in a dry, medium-hot frying pan for 2-3 minutes each side, using another pan to weigh it down.
Slice in half and serve with salad.
Recipe from: www.watercress.co.uk

Wednesday 30 December

BBC 1

Fiona Bruce features, Antiques Roadshow on at 8.00pm

6.00 Breakfast 9.00 FILM: The Princess and the Frog (2009) Disney animated musical fantasy, with the voice of Anika Noni Rose. ★★★ **10.30 FILM: Chicken Run (2000)** Animated comedy, with the voices of Mel Gibson and Julia Sawalha. ★★★ **11.50 Bargain Hunt** From Alexandra Palace antiques fair. (R) **12.50 BBC News 1.05 Midlands Today; Weather 1.10 Father Brown** The priest investigates when a man is found hanged. (R) **2.00 FILM: National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007)** Archaeologist Ben Gates sets out to clear one of his ancestors of involvement in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Adventure sequel, starring Nicolas Cage and Helen Mirren. ★★★

BBC 2

Dara O Briain hosts, Mock the Week Christmas Special, on at 11.00pm

6.20 Homes Under the Hammer Properties in Stoke, Kent and Nottingham. (R) **7.20 Sign Zone: This Wild Life** (R) **7.50 Sign Zone: Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip** (R) **8.20 FILM: Waterloo (1970)** Historical drama, starring Rod Steiger and Christopher Plummer. ★★★ **10.30 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure** (R) **11.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down** The four remaining potters compete in the final. (R) **12.30 The Two Ronnies Talking Comedy** A look back at some of the finest Two Ronnies performances. (R) **1.00 The Bear Family and Me** The bears face danger when the hunting season begins. Last in the series. (R) **2.00 Coast** Nick forges a path around Jersey. (R)

ITV

Michael Vaughan features, Big Star's Little Star on at 8.00pm

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) **6.15 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Sooty** (R) **6.40 Super 4** (R) **7.00 Good Morning Britain** News, current affairs and lifestyle features. **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal** The experts visit Birmingham. (R) **10.30 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R) **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Reality star Ollie Locke plays host. (R) **12.30 FILM: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971)** Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder and Jack Albertson. ★★★ **2.20 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather. **2.25 ITV News Central;** Weather. **2.35 Midsomer Murders** Barnaby investigates murders echoing the plots of horror films. (R)

CH4

Felicity Jones and Ed Westwick star, Chalet Girl on at 12.40pm

6.00 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) **6.25 Small Animal Hospital** Observing sick pets being treated, including a Collie with an eye tumour. **7.10 FILM: The Love Bug (1968)** Disney comedy, starring Dean Jones. ★★★ **9.15 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **9.40 The Big Bang Theory** Raj tries to date Lucy and Emily at the same time. (R) **10.10 The Simpsons** Homer discovers a talent for styling hair. (R) **10.40 FILM: The Phantom (1996)** Superhero adventure, starring Billy Zane. ★★★ **12.40 FILM: Chalet Girl (2011)** Comedy, starring Felicity Jones and Ed Westwick. ★★★ **2.35 FILM: Freaky Friday (2003)** Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. ★★★

CH5

Visiting Sweden, Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Snow, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.25 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the third heat in the competition. (R) **10.25 FILM: Carry On Constable (1960)** A staff shortage forces a police inspector to take on four bumbling new recruits, who only increase the crime rate. Comedy, starring Sid James. (b/w) ★★★ **12.10 FILM: Carry On Spying (1964)** Four bungling secret agents are sent on a mission to recover a stolen secret formula. Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams. (b/w) ★★★ **1.55 FILM: Annie Get Your Gun (1950)** Premiere. Sharpshooter Annie Oakley becomes a celebrity with a travelling show, while having a troubled romance with a rival marksman. Musical Western, starring Betty Hutton. ★★★

Early View

3.55 Room on the Broom (R)
4.20 Monsters, Inc (2001) ★★★
5.45 Pointless (R)
6.30 BBC News
6.45 Midlands Today; Weather
7.00 Celebrity Mastermind Liam Fox, Jon-Allan Butterworth, Nick Helm and Kimberley Nixon answer questions on Auf Wiedersehen, Pet, the Terminator films, Alice Cooper, and Agatha Christie's Poirot novels.
7.30 A Question of Sport: Festive Fun A look back at some of the best moments from Christmas editions of the light-hearted quiz, featuring the likes of Patrick Kielty, Alistair McGowan and Jamelia.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents a Christmas special from Lyme Park in Cheshire, where she and toy expert Will Farmer look back at children's Christmas presents dating back to Edwardian times.
9.00 Great Barrier Reef with David Attenborough New series. Following his visit to the Great Barrier Reef in 1957, the broadcaster returns and uses the latest filming techniques to unlock the secrets of the natural wonder.
10.00 BBC News
10.15 Midlands Today; Weather; National Lottery Update
10.25 Catherine Tate's Nan The freehold on Nan's block of flats is bought up by property developers.
10.55 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special The doting mother yearns for peace and quiet. (R)
11.35 Comic Relief 2015: Thanks a Billion! Lenny Henry revisits comedy highlights from this year's charity event, and joins John Bishop and Alex Jones in detailing how funds raised have helped people all over the world. (R)
12.40 BBC News

3.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth (R)
4.00 Flog It! (R)
4.50 Natural World: Attenborough's Fabulous Frogs (R)
5.50 Alice in Wonderland (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Mia Wasikowska and Johnny Depp. ★★★
7.30 Christmas University Challenge Two teams of graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the first semi-final of the academic quiz's festive series. Jeremy Paxman hosts.
8.00 Top Gear: From A to Z John Bishop narrates the second of two programmes celebrating the highlights of the Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond era, via an alphabetical list.
9.00 Charlie Brooker End of Year Wipe 2015 The broadcaster takes a satirical look back at the events of the past 12 months, including the beginning of Corbynmania and a Tory majority, and the end of Page Three.
10.00 A Gert Lush Christmas Comedian Russell Howard's debut comedy drama. Dan Colman is about to introduce the woman of his dreams to his crazy but adorable family at Christmas, but it may not go to plan. (R)
11.00 Mock the Week Christmas Special Host Dara O Briain is back with the comedy panel show's traditional helping of seasonal silliness, featuring the usual mix of out-takes, highlights and unseen material. (R)
11.30 Backchat End of Year Show 2015 Jack Whitehall and his father Michael review the past 12 months, picking apart some of the highs and lows of 2015 in an end-of-year special. (R)
12.15 FILM: The Shipping News (2001) ★★★ **2.00 FILM: Sign Zone: Behind the Candelabra (2013)** ★★★ **3.55 This Is BBC Two**

4.30 Dinosaur Britain Part one of two. The lives of the dinosaurs that once roamed the nation. (R)
5.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas The broadcaster spreads festive cheer at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London. (R)
6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45 ITV Evening News; Weather.
7.00 Emmerdale Ross protests his innocence to Debbie in the face of new evidence which points to his involvement in the shooting, and Lawrence plans a New Year's party.
7.30 Coronation Street Kevin is shocked when he catches Tyrone dipping into the garage's petty cash to pay off his loan, while Rob is furious when Johnny tells him that Carla knows the truth.
8.00 Big Star's Little Star Festive edition of the entertainment show, in which children spill the beans about their famous relatives. With Fiona O'Carroll, Robbie Fowler and Michael Vaughan.
9.00 All New It'll Be Alright on the Night Griff Rhys Jones presents a compilation of out-takes from the world of film and TV, including foul-ups from Mr Selfridge, Doc Martin, and Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.
10.14 ITV Central Weather
10.15 American Pie 2 (2001) The teenage friends get together after their first year at college and set out to broaden their sexual horizons over the summer. Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs and Chris Klein. ★★★
12.10 Jackpot247 Interactive gaming. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

4.35 Sunshine on Leith (2013) Premiere. Musical, starring George MacKay and Kevin Guthrie. ★★★
6.20 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
6.30 Hollyoaks Alfie gets a kitchen job at The Hutch so he can get some of Tony's DNA and prove he is his dad, while Lindsey urges Kim to keep quiet and Sienna breaks down.
7.00 Gogglesprogs The nation's children share their opinions on the best and worst of 2015's TV, from the cakes on The Great British Bake off, to big news stories like the general election. (R)
8.00 What Britain Bought in 2015 Retail consultant Mary Portas looks back on how consumers shopped during the year and what the weekly £6billion shopping habit says about the nation.
9.00 24 Hours in A&E An 84-year-old woman is referred to St Georges for urgent treatment for dangerously high potassium levels, while a 74-year-old man is brought in after suffering a suspected stroke.
10.00 The Millionaire Party Planner Following Liz Taylor and her team as they strive to create the best parties on the planet, including the Marina Dalglish charity ball and an exclusive 40th birthday party.
11.05 Fast & Furious 5 (2011) A fugitive assembles a team of criminals for a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is on their trail. Action adventure, starring Vin Diesel and Dwayne Johnson. ★★★
1.30 Rude Tube Alex Zane counts down a Top 50 of the funniest online videos. **2.25 Friday Night Dinner** (R) **2.55 Friday Night Dinner** (R) **3.20 Friday Night Dinner** (R) **3.50 Gadget Man** (R) **4.15 Benchmark 5.10 Deal or No Deal** (R) **5.55 Small Animal Hospital**

4.05 Calamity Jane (1953) Musical comedy Western, starring Doris Day. ★★★★
6.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild Cameras document autumn events at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, a time for the red deer rut, when stags battle for the right to breed. (R)
7.00 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the fourth heat of the competition in Malaysia. Britain's Mark Felix took part alongside the likes of Russian Alexander Lysenko and American Jerry Pritchett; 5 News Update
8.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Snow Ben meets a 40-year-old British woman who gave up her old life as a communications manager to train huskies inside the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden. Last in the series; (R) 5 News Update
9.00 Stephen King's Big Driver (2014) Premiere. A mystery writer plots revenge against the serial killer who attacked her and left her for dead. Thriller based on a short story by Stephen King, starring Maria Bello Olympia Dukakis and Joan Jett. ★★★
10.50 Stephen King's Needful Things (1993) The people of a small town find their hearts' desires in an antique dealer's shop, but pay a sinister price. Horror, based on Stephen King's novel, with Ed Harris and Max von Sydow. ★★
1.10 SuperCasino Live interactive gaming. **3.10 On Benefits: Cashing in for Christmas** Christmas for people living on state welfare. (R) **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan has a close encounter with a tamarin. (R) **4.25 Divine Designs** (R) **4.45 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 House Doctor** (R)

Prime Time

Late View

New Year's Eve

Early View

BBC 1

Mark Wahlberg features, The Graham Norton Show on at 10.45pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 FILM: Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings (2012)** ★★★ **10.05 CBeebies Alice in Wonderland 10.55 FILM: The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (2011)** ★★★ **12.30 Bargain Hunt** Tim Wonnacott joins the teams in Newark in Nottinghamshire. (R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather. **1.10 Midlands Today; Weather 1.20 Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns** The absent-minded professor enters an inventing competition. (R) **2.20 Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers** The animated duo fall foul of a villainous penguin. (R) **2.50 FILM: Up (2009)** Animated adventure, with the voice of Ed Asner. ★★★★

BBC 2

Christmas Shopping Fever 2015: John Lewis & the Retail Race, on at 4.50pm

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer Properties in Kent, Stoke-on-Trent and Dorset. (R) **7.00 Flog It!** Valuing antiques at Guildford Cathedral, Surrey. (R) **7.45 Sign Zone: This Wild Life** (R) **8.15 Sign Zone: Great British Menu** (R) **8.45 FILM: Father of the Bride (1950)** Comedy, starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. (b/w) ★★★ **10.15 Natural World: A Bear with a Bounty** A wild black bear whose online fame has led to it becoming a target for hunters. (R) **11.15 FILM: Custer of the West (1967)** Historical biopic, starring Robert Shaw. ★★★ **1.30 FILM: Ice Station Zebra (1968)** Adventure based on Alistair MacLean's novel, starring Rock Hudson, Ernest Borgnine. ★★★

ITV

A chat with the entertainer, Piers Meets Cilla Black, 10.05pm

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) **6.15 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Sooty** (R) **6.40 Super 4 7.00 Good Morning Britain** News, current affairs and lifestyle features. **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal** David Dickinson and the team travel to Lymm, Cheshire. (R) **10.30 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R) **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Chloe-Jasmine and Stevi Ritchie play host. (R) **12.30 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather. **12.40 FILM: Dragonheart (1996)** Fantasy adventure, starring Dennis Quaid and featuring the voice of Sean Connery. ★★★ **2.30 Dinosaur Britain** Part two of two. The lives of the dinosaurs that once roamed the nation. (R)

Ch4

Olly Murs features, TFI New Year's Eve, on at 7.30pm

6.40 FILM: Explorers (1985) Sci-fi adventure, starring Ethan Hawke. ★★★ **8.40 The Big Bang Theory** Raj discovers a secret about Howard. (R) **9.10 The Big Bang Theory** Raj prepares for a date with Emily. (R) **9.35 The Simpsons** Ned Flanders and Mrs Krabappel embark on a whirlwind romance. (R) **10.05 The Simpsons** (R) **10.35 The Simpsons** Lisa finds a classroom hidden beneath Springfield Elementary. (R) **11.05 FILM: Imagine That (2009)** Fantasy comedy, with Eddie Murphy. ★★ **1.10 FILM: The Rocketeer (1991)** A maverick pilot in 1930s Hollywood finds an experimental rocket pack, but a Nazi spy is determined to steal it. Sci-fi adventure, with Bill Campbell. ★★★

Ch5

Ant & Dec feature, Britain's Best Loved Double Acts, on at 9.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.00 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the fourth heat of the competition. (R) **9.50 FILM: Carry On Teacher (1959)** A headmaster's hopes of landing a job at a better school are ruined by his naughty pupils, who do not want him to leave. Comedy, with Ted Ray and Kenneth Williams. (b/w) ★★★ **11.30 Sinatra 100: An All-Star Grammy Concert** Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the singer's birth, featuring performances of some of his best-known songs by Tony Bennett. (R) **1.50 FILM: One Chance (2013)** Fact-based comedy drama about the rise to fame of opera singer Paul Potts through a successful appearance on Britain's Got Talent. With James Corden. ★★★

Prime Time

4.15 Stick Man (R)
4.45 Take That on Tour Behind the scenes of the band's first tour as a three-piece. (R)
5.45 Pointless (R)
6.30 BBC News; Weather.
6.50 Midlands Today; Weather
7.00 Celebrity Mastermind Lisa Maxwell, Gary Delaney, Simon Greenall and Conor McNamara answer questions on Judy Garland, George Romero's zombie films, the D-Day landings and Irish whiskey.
7.30 Roald Dahl's Esio Trot Dustin Hoffman and Judi Dench star in this adaptation of Roald Dahl's story about retired bachelor Mr Hoppy, who hits upon a cunning plan to romance his neighbour Mrs Silver. (R)
9.00 BBC News; Weather.
9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie (2014) Premiere. The indomitable Irish matriarch fights to defend Dublin's famous street market from being sold off to developers. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll and Jennifer Gibney. ★
10.45 The Graham Norton Show Graham hosts a star-studded New Year's Eve special, chatting to Oscar-winner Eddie Redmayne and Hollywood heavyweights Jennifer Lawrence, Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg.
11.30 Bryan Adams Rocks Big Ben Live The Canadian rocker blasts out his greatest hits to bring in the new year, only pausing to take a break for the chimes of Big Ben and the traditional fireworks display.
12.00 New Year's Eve Fireworks The people of London welcome in 2016. **12.10 Bryan Adams Rocks Big Ben Live 12.45 Mrs Brown's Boys** (R) **1.15 Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show** (R) **2.15 Would I Lie to You? At Christmas** (R) **2.45 Weather for the Week Ahead 2.50 BBC News**

3.50 World's Sneakiest Animals (R)
4.50 Christmas Shopping Fever 2015: John Lewis and the Retail Race (R)
5.50 The Odd Life of Timothy Green (2012) Premiere. Fantasy, starring Jennifer Garner. ★★
7.30 Christmas University Challenge Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the second semi-final of the festive edition of the academic quiz.
8.00 Gareth Malone's Great Choir Reunion Gareth tracks down some of the singers from the Military Wives and the workplace choirs he formed in Sing While You Work, before rehearsals begin for reunion concert.
9.00 The Sapphires (2012) Premiere. An Irish music manager discovers four Aboriginal Australian singers in a remote mission in the 1960s, and plans to turn them into their country's answer to the Supremes. The naive girls face a challenging journey to stardom when they are sent to entertain American troops in the Vietnam War. Drama, starring Deborah Mailman and Chris O'Dowd. ★★★
10.40 Live at the Apollo Christmas Special 2015 Nina Conti hosts a special festive edition of the stand-up comedy show from the Hammersmith Apollo, featuring Tanyalee Davis, Hal Cruttenden and Josh Widdicombe. (R)
11.10 Jools' Annual Hootenanny 2015 Jools Holland brings in the new year with performances by Tom Jones, Paul Weller, Hozier, James Bay, Beth Hart and KT Tunstall.
1.10 Best of Glastonbury 2015 (R) **3.10 Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale** (R)

3.30 The Chase (R)
4.30 Downton Abbey – The Finale The Crawley family saga concludes with one last festive special. (R)
6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45 ITV Evening News; Weather.
7.00 Emmerdale Andy is forced to make a confession to Robert, leading to a fateful encounter with Ross, and Bernice has a stressful time organising the Home Farm party.
8.00 Coronation Street Emily announces she has booked her flight and leaves for Peru on New Year's Day, while Ken tells Audrey how much he values her friendship, but the moment is ruined by Nessa.
8.30 Panda Babies Vet Steve Leonard visits three panda reserves in China, following the development of several of these endangered animals from newborn to one-year-old toddlers.
9.35 Birds of a Feather Sharon and Tracey discover Dorien has been keeping a secret for more than 50 years and decide to get involved, but the novelist is reluctant to confront her past. (R)
10.05 Piers Meets Cilla Black An interview with the entertainer, whose long career was marked by extraordinary highs tempered with tragic personal setbacks. (R)
11.05 The Nation's Favourite Bond Song Documentary telling the stories behind 20 songs from the 007 movies, with contributions from Jonathan Ross, Moby, Jools Holland, Roger Moore, Honor Blackman and Naomie Harris. (R)
11.55 ITV News and Weather and New Year's Bongs The headlines, followed by Big Ben.
12.10 The Nation's Favourite Bond Song (R) **12.40 FILM: Goldfinger (1964)** ★★★★ **2.30 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

3.20 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) Disney comedy, starring Rick Moranis. ★★★
5.20 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
5.35 Hollyoaks Kim confiscates her sister's kill kit.
6.35 Celebrity Couples Come Dine with Me Union J singer Jaymi Hensley, TV presenter Gail Porter and ex-EastEnders actor Ricky Groves team up with their partners and compete to be the best dinner hosts.
7.30 TFI New Year's Eve Chris Evans prepares to welcome in the new year with a mix of celebrity chat, raucous stunts and music, with Olly Murs, Will Poulter, Sia, New Order, the Vaccines and Izzy Bizu.
9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Specstacular Alan Carr returns with his end-of-year show, inviting guests including David Guetta, Danny Dyer, Mel B, Greg Davies, Verne Troyer and Katherine Ryan to join in games and sketches.
11.10 8 Out of 10 Cats End of Year Special Host Jimmy Carr and team captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock discuss and dissect the funniest stories that have made the headlines in 2015. (R)
12.10 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2015 Rob Brydon, Sue Perkins, David Mitchell, Claudia Winkleman, Greg Davies and Jo Brand reveal whether they have their fingers on the pulse of modern life in the annual quiz. (R) **2.10 Catastrophe** Comedy, written by and starring Rob Delaney and Sharon Horgan. (R) **2.35 Catastrophe** Sharon contends with the dreaded "mombies" at a mother-and-baby class. (R) **3.05 Catastrophe** Sharon decides that she and Rob should inject some passion into their love life. (R) **3.35 Gadget Man** Richard Ayoade tackles property conundrums with the help of gadgets. (R) **4.00 Location, Location, Location** House-hunting. (R) **4.50 Deal or No Deal** Beat-the-banker game show. (R)

3.55 The Wizard of Oz (1939) Musical fantasy, with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger and Jack Haley. ★★★★
6.00 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild Charting the effects of a mild winter at Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, as red deer move to higher ground and salmon endure six months without food. Last in the series; (R) 5 News Update
6.55 World's Strongest Man 2015 Action from the final heat of the competition in Malaysia, as reigning Britain's Strongest Man Eddie Hall faced stiff competition from the likes of Mike Burke and Matjaz Belsak; 5 News Update
8.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Winter Wonderland The adventurer travels to Alaska to visit a couple who hiked 4,000 miles to get to their new home, where they are now bringing up their two children in a small coastal village. (R)
9.00 Britain's Best Loved Double Acts A countdown of the nation's favourite duos from the worlds of TV, film, music, animation and sport, including the Two Ronnies, Morecambe & Wise and Ant and Dec. (R)
11.55 Most Shocking Christmas TV Moments A merry romp through the most inappropriate, outrageous and appallingly atrocious Christmas television turkeys of all time, featuring contributions from some of those involved. (R)
1.55 SuperCasino Live interactive gaming. **3.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild** Charting the effects of a mild winter at Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. (R) **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan tracks down the Vancouver Island marmot. (R) **4.25 Divine Designs** Hindu and Jain art in Leicester and London. (R) **4.50 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 House Doctor** (R)

Late View

Stock your cabinet for a cracking Christmas

THE presents are wrapped, the turkey is ordered, the house is decorated and the in-laws are on their way, but what about the drinks? Tempted to buy some blue curaçao or crème de menthe, just in case one guest demands an obscure, lurid looking cocktail?

Belvoir Fruit Farms has joined forces with drinks expert Joanna Simon to help you develop the ideal Christmas Cabinet to keep all your guests happy while avoiding being left with a cupboard full of sickly liqueurs come Twelfth Night!

Joanna Simon explains: "It may sound counterintuitive, but your Christmas drinks cabinet should be personal.

"If you try to make it please everyone, you'll end up with a) optional paralysis each time you face the sea of esoteric bottles, b) a welter of weird drinks at the end of the festivities, and c) you can never, anyway, guard against someone asking for hemp-seed vodka or wasabi gin.

"That said, there's no point in stocking up on all your personal favourites unless they're made for each other."

Here is Joanna's hit list

Gin – fashionable, brilliant in cocktails, a classic simple reviver with tonic or Belvoir Elderflower Pressé.

Vodka – a more neutral base than gin, so it can be dressed up any number of ways, as simply or as elaborately as you like. If you're a fan of ginger, try vodka and Belvoir Ginger Beer with a squeeze of lime.

lWhisky or whiskey – it doesn't have to be Scotch: consider ringing the changes with Irish, Japanese, bourbon or rye.

Sparkling white wine – Champagne, Prosecco, Saumur, or whatever suits your taste and budget. Try adding a Belvoir cordial such as Elderflower, or Blueberry & Blackcurrant, or Spiced Apple & Ginger, instead of crème de cassis.

Dry white vermouth – not on everyone's must-have list, but if you make cocktails this is the most flexible vermouth. You can always add a dash of elderflower cordial to sweeten it.

Belvoir Elderflower Cordial – for an endless array of cocktails and mocktails, or just with soda or sparkling water for drivers, children, or pregnant women.

Orange liqueur – it doesn't have to be orange if you have another favourite, but orange liqueurs are versatile and popular.

Aromatic bitters – in many ways it doesn't matter too much which one you choose, but I find peach or Angostura the most useful (and they're also good in cooking, if you want to use up the bottle).

Sloe gin – no, not essential, but I always have it in at Christmas. Top up with Belvoir Elderflower Pressé or Cox Apple Pressé for a refreshing long drink.

Rum, white or dark, or Tequila, or Cognac (or other brandy) – again, only essential if it's your favoured drink or that of a guest, or you know you want it for cocktails.

It may seem obvious, but you can't have too much ice. Stock up on lemons and limes for fresh juice, peel, wedges and slices – you'll need more than you think.

Remember garnishes: keep them simple, fresh and natural – cinnamon sticks, lemon grass, cranberries as well as the more obvious citrus fruits, mint and cucumber (yes, mint and cucumber even in winter).

Now you've got the perfect Christmas drinks cabinet, you can indulge in a delicious cocktail developed by Joanna.

The cocktail is called Sloe Dance

The sloe gin gives a warming, Christmassy pink glow to a cocktail that is packed with zing. Add another teaspoon of elderflower cordial if you want it sweeter.

To make this fantastic cocktail for one you will need: two fresh mint leaves, plus a small sprig to garnish; 25ml sloe gin; 25ml vodka ; 5ml (one teaspoon) fresh lime juice; 5ml (one teaspoon) Belvoir Elderflower Cordial; 50ml Belvoir Cox Apple Pressé; a Twist of lime peel; ice and a highball glass.

To make the cocktail all you need to do is put four cubes of ice (or to taste) in the glass, add two of the mint leaves, then all the liquids, ending with the Cox Apple Pressé. Garnish with the mint sprig and twist of lime peel.

Have an 'appy time with these great ideas

GADGET enthusiasts love a free app and there is nothing better than a couple of good apps for Christmas – they might even make sure the biggest Grinch has an 'Appy Christmas.

We've had a good look and have recommended five free apps to cure any Christmas headaches.

1. Wisher, from iTunes and Google Play

With £2.4 billion-worth of gifts being sent back, put straight on eBay or given to charity shops every year, Wisher is an app that makes sure everyone gets presents they really want.

It lets them scan or snap things they love throughout the year to create their own personal wish list.

Friends can download it to see what to buy each other and where to get it, but it cleverly manages to keep the magic of a surprise.

2. SwiftGift, from iTunes

For many people, time to get posting Christmas presents means it's also time for the annual text message to everyone to find out what their postal address is.

SwiftGift have put together the world's first instant gift messaging service.

It could not be easier to use.

First you need to choose from the selection of hand-picked gift ideas from retailers like John Lewis and M&S.

Then you pick the contact from your phonebook.

And then the lucky recipient can choose exactly where and when they want the gift delivered.

3. Tilt, from iTunes and Google Play

We've all been there – you've enjoyed a fun night of food, wine and laughter with old friends, only for the atmosphere to be ruined by the dreaded task of splitting the bill.

Tilt enables everyone to quickly pay their share direct into your bank with just a couple of taps on your phone.

You can easily track exactly who has paid what.

4. Great British Chefs: Feastive, from iTunes

How about this year you try Theo Randall's spatchcock pigeon with cavolo nero, Martin Wishart's roast goose or Bruno Loubet's festive quails instead of the usual turkey?

With the Great British Chefs: Feastive app you'll have 26 of the UK's best chefs' special festive menus in your pocket.

And with that kind of help you will find it easy to create the chefs' specials with their easy step-by-step recipes.

5. idealo, from iTunes and Google Play

idealo is a shopping app that compares live prices of 100 million products in more than 19,000 online retailers.

This means you can instantly see if you're really getting a bargain, just by scanning a barcode.

TOP 10 BEST SELLING IPHONE APPS

1 Football Manager Mobile 2016 by SEGA
2 Heads Up! by Warner Bros.
3 The Official DVSA Theory Test Kit for Car Drivers by TSO (The Stationery Office)
4 Minecraft: Pocket Edition by Mojang
5 Facetune by Lightricks Ltd.
6 The Chase by Barnstorm Games
7 MONOPOLY Game by Electronic Arts
8 Ultimate Guitar Tabs - largest catalogue of songs with guitar and ukulele chords, tabs, lyrics and guitar lessons by Ultimate Guitar
9 7 Minute Workout Challenge by Fitness Guide Inc
10 Minecraft: Story Mode by Telltale Inc

TOP 10 IPHONE FREE APPS

1 Advent 2015 - 25 Days of Christmas by appChocolate
2 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here! By ITV
3 WhatsApp Messenger by WhatsApp Inc.
4 TheLADbible by 65Twenty Ltd
5 ElfYourself by Office Depot, Inc. by Magic Mirror LLC
6 Messenger by Facebook, Inc.
7 Facebook by Facebook, Inc.
8 Instagram by Instagram, Inc.
9 A Call From Santa! By Net Unlimited
10 YouTube by Google, Inc.

New Year's Day

Early View

BBC 1

Julie Andrews, The Sound of Music, on at 1.15pm

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. **9.00 FILM: Turbo (2013)** Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Ryan Reynolds. ★★★ **10.25 FILM: Monsters vs Aliens (2009)** Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. ★★★ **11.55 Top of the Pops New Year** With KDA, Tinie Tempah and Katy B, the Vaccines and Sigala. **12.55 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message** The Most Rev Justin Welby delivers his New Year address. **1.00 BBC News at One; Weather 1.10 Midlands Today; Weather 1.15 FILM: The Sound of Music (1965)** Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, starring Julie Andrews. ★★★★

BBC 2

The Many Faces of Ronnie Corbett, on at 8.30pm

6.35 FILM: Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (2003) Animated adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. ★★★ **7.50 Natural World: Honey Badgers – Masters of Mayhem** (R) **8.50 FILM: Viva Las Vegas (1964)** Musical, starring Elvis Presley. ★★★ **10.15 Darcey's Ballet Heroes** Darcey Bussell considers the dancers who transformed male ballet. (R) **11.15 New Year's Day Vienna Concert 2016 12.45 FILM: Little Women (1994)** Period drama, starring Winona Ryder. ★★★ **2.40 FILM: The Eagle Has Landed (1976)** A Nazi agent plans to kidnap Churchill as the prime minister spends the weekend in a Norfolk village. Wartime adventure, starring Michael Caine. ★★★

ITV

Gino's Italian Escape - Islands in the Sun, on at 8.00pm

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) **6.10 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Sooty** (R) **6.40 Super 4** (R) **7.00 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.15 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.30 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.45 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **8.00 Oddbods** (R) **8.05 A Grizzly New Year Tale** (R) **8.35 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **8.50 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **9.10 Horrid Henry** (R) **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal** (R) **10.30 Judge Rinder** (R) **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **12.25 Celebrity Squares** With Sarah Millican, Ana Matronic, Joe Lycett and Tess Daly. (R) **1.10 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather. **1.25 FILM: Dr No (1962)** James Bond spy thriller, starring Sean Connery. ★★★★

Ch4

Matthew Broderick stars, Inspector Gadget, on at 11.15pm

7.30 The Big Bang Theory The gang celebrates Star Wars Day. (R) **7.55 The Big Bang Theory** Penny gets fired from the movie. (R) **8.20 FILM: Planet 51 (2009)** An astronaut travels to another world where the alien inhabitants believe him to be the scout for a planned invasion. Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Dwayne Johnson. ★★★ **10.10 The Simpsons** (R) **10.40 The Simpsons** Lisa accepts an invitation to join a Wiccan coven. (R) **11.15 FILM: Inspector Gadget (1999)** Disney comedy adventure, starring Matthew Broderick. ★ **12.55 Channel 4 Racing** Nick Luck presents live coverage of six races. From Cheltenham, races start at 1.20, 1.55, 2.30 and 3.05. From Musselburgh, at 1.35 and 2.10.

Ch5

Entertaining famous faces, An Audience with Ken Dodd, on at 9.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.35 FILM: Thomas & Friends: Sodor's Legend of the Lost Treasure (2015) Premiere. Animated adventure, featuring the voice of Joseph May. ★★★ **10.50 FILM: Carry On Cabby (1963)** The neglected wife of a workaholic taxi owner secretly launches a rival cab firm using women drivers to tempt customers away from him. Comedy, starring Sid James. (b/w) ★★★ **12.35 FILM: Harry and the Hendersons (1987)** A family's holiday in the mountains is thrown into turmoil by an encounter with the legendary Bigfoot, whom they end up taking home. Comedy, with John Lithgow. ★★ **2.45 FILM: Dracula: Dead and Loving It (1995)** With Leslie Nielson. ★

Prime Time

4.05 Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas (R)
4.30 Wreck-It Ralph (2012) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of John C Reilly and Sarah Silverman. ★★★
6.05 BBC News
6.20 Midlands Today; Weather
6.30 EastEnders Mick and Linda's wedding day arrives.
7.00 Billionaire Boy Len Spud and his 12-year-old son Joe become billionaires when Len invents a new toilet roll. However, the money fails to bring them happiness. John Thomson stars.
8.00 EastEnders With Dean now outed as the black sheep of the family, he continues his revenge plot against the Carters.
8.30 Dickensian Compeyson goes to desperate lengths to make Miss Havisham notice him, and Martha Cratchit's wedding plans are thrown into turmoil by an unexpected knock at the door.
9.00 Sherlock The apparent ghost of a woman who took her own life prowls the streets of London with an unslakeable thirst for revenge, forcing Holmes to use all his cunning to defeat her.
10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special A handsome stranger reveals he only has eyes for one special woman – Agnes Brown. The second of two festive instalments of the comedy, written by and starring Brendan O'Carroll.
11.10 BBC News; Weather.
11.25 Midlands Today; Weather; National Lottery Update
11.35 Adele at the BBC The singer-songwriter chats to Graham Norton about life and career, and is accompanied by her band on classic tracks and songs from her album 25. (R)
12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead 12.55 BBC News

4.50 Gorilla Family and Me Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan revisits the apes. (R)
5.50 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message The Most Rev Justin Welby delivers his New Year address. (R)
5.55 The Terminal (2004) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones. ★★★
8.00 Christmas University Challenge 2015 Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the final of the festive edition of the quiz. Jeremy Paxman hosts. Last in the series.
8.30 The Many Faces of Ronnie Corbett Profiling the TV comedy actor who found fame at the relatively late age of 36 via the Frost Report, revealing some lesser-known details of his life and career.
9.30 The One Ronnie Comedy show from 2010 in which Ronnie Corbett celebrates his 80th birthday with a series of sketches. Featuring guest stars including David Walliams, Matt Lucas and Miranda Hart. (R)
10.20 Catch Me If You Can (2002) A conman lies his way across America, posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, while outwitting the FBI at every turn. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Christopher Walken and Martin Sheen. ★★★
12.30 FILM: Shadow of a Doubt (1943) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Joseph Cotten. (b/w) ★★★★ **2.15 Top Gear: From A to Z** Part two of two. Alphabetical highlights from the Clarkson, May and Hammond era. (R) **3.15 Sign Zone: Hugh's War on Waste** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall sets out to reduce the amount of food we waste. (R) **4.15 Sign Zone: The Secrets of the Mona Lisa** Exploring major new findings about Leonardo da Vinci's famous masterpiece. (R) **5.15 This Is BBC Two**

3.35 Midsomer Murders (R)
5.35 Wild River with Ray Mears
6.40 ITV Evening News; Weather.
7.00 Emmerdale Debbie visits Charity in prison, and the experience leaves her determined to leave town for good, while Chas is shocked by Gordon's account of his life since they split up.
7.30 Coronation Street Carla tells Johnny she will keep his secret if he leaves the factory and moves away, and gets more than she bargained for during a game of roulette with Robert.
8.00 Gino's Italian Escape – Islands in the Sun Gino D'Acampo ends his tour of Sicily by making cannoli, climbing the craters of Mount Etna and visiting a town that featured in the Godfather movies. Last in the series.
8.30 Coronation Street Carla swears Robert to secrecy after their moment of passion, and Roy tries to forget the incriminating letter which reveals Alan had an affair with Cathy's sister, Nessa.
9.00 The Big Quiz – Coronation Street v Emmerdale Stephen Mulhern hosts as stars from the soaps are tested on the biggest events and the funniest moments in the Yorkshire Dales and on the cobbles during 2015.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 The Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by (R)
11.20 American Pie: The Wedding (2003) The friends reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming trip to the altar – but events quickly spiral out of control. Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs. ★★★
1.00 Jackpot247

3.35 The Golden Compass (2007) Fantasy adventure, starring Dakota Blue Richards and Nicole Kidman. ★★★
5.50 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
6.00 Tangled (2010) A princess locked in a tower by a witch escapes with the aid of a bandit and tries to find her way home. Disney animation, with the voices of Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi. ★★★
8.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast New series. Orlando Bloom joins hosts Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty to rustle up a Moroccan tagine. Plus, Asian seafood parcels and a great British banger that can be trusted.
9.00 A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) Premiere. John McClane goes to Moscow and helps his CIA agent son stop the Russian Mob from stealing nuclear weapons. Action adventure sequel, with Bruce Willis and Jai Courtney. ★★
11.00 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2016 A real-life Alan Partridge, 50 Shades of Grey in Lego and Darth Vader on a mini Segway are among the items featured as Alex Zane marks the end of 2015 with a series compilation.
1.10 FILM: Damien: Omen II (1978) The Devil's son is now in his teens and has come to terms with his demonic fate, unleashing another series of murders. Horror sequel, with Jonathan Scott-Taylor and William Holden. ★★★ **3.00 Friday Night Dinner** Mum and Dad's anniversary goes awry. (R) **3.25 You Deserve This House** A woman who runs a swimming club for youngsters with disabilities. (R) **4.20 Location, Location, Location** Two couples who returned to the UK after travelling the world. (R) **5.15 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites** A recipe for a baked potato stuffed with curried mushrooms. (R) **5.20 Deal or No Deal** (R)

4.30 Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes (1984) Drama, starring Christopher Lambert. ★★★
7.00 World's Strongest Man Final 2015 Action from the Grand Final of the competition, which took place in Malaysia, as the 10 competitors who made it past the heats went head to head for the trophy. Last in the series; 5 News Update
8.00 Christmas with the Double Acts An hour of side-splitting fun with some of the greatest double acts to have graced the small screen, proving that when it comes to comedy, two are often better than one; (R) 5 News Update
9.00 An Audience with Ken Dodd Comedy and entertainment from the Liverpudlian comedian, as he celebrates his long career in showbusiness with the help of an all-star audience. (R)
10.55 Greatest Stand-Up Comedians A countdown of the 50 funniest people to have performed stand-up routines, featuring Tommy Cooper, Joan Rivers and Robin Williams. With contributions by Paul Hogan and Ross Noble. (R)
1.55 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild** It is June at Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, and cameras follow the newborns as they learn to fight, find food and avoid predators. (R) **4.00 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild** Cameras document autumn events at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, a time for the red deer rut, when stags battle for the right to breed. (R) **4.45 House Doctor** Ann Maurice helps a couple spruce up their tiny cottage in a bid to make it more attractive to prospective buyers, using small furniture to create an illusion of space. (R) **5.10 House Doctor** Advice for a couple desperate to sell their Bournemouth home. (R)

Shropshire STAR

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Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, December 17, 2015

BRAIN TRAINING

Test your mental agility. Target times, in minutes, are in the little clocks

9-er (3)

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all 9 letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

THE CLUES
571 gives an animal,
17789 gives a bird,
8325649 gives a fish.

Your time:

X is to Y (2)

1. Wodehouse is to Grenville as Wells is to ? GEORGE, GERALD, GRAEME, GRAHAM, GRANT

2. Harrow is to Harrovian as Winchester is to ? BELGARIAN, VENTARIAN, WINCHESTERITE, WINONIAN, WYKEHAMIST

3. Shrek is to Green as Sully is to ? BLACK, BLUE, BROWN, ORANGE, YELLOW

Your time:

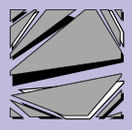
Mindbender (3)

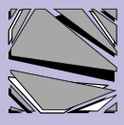
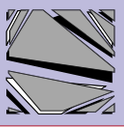
In the centre of a square birthday cake is a square of pink icing. If the sides of the top of cake are 4 cm longer than the sides of the icing square, and the total area of the top of the cake (not including the icing) is 216 square cm, what area of the cake is covered in pink icing?

Your time:

Mirror Image (1)

Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the shape on the right?



A 
B
C
D 

Your time:

Split Decision (3)

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

T/R	O/I	R/P	E/I	S/C
A/I		O/A		O/I
T/S	H/A	N/E	I/D	Y/R
X/L		T/D		N/A
E/R	I/A	S/N	Z/E	L/M

Your time:

IMPOSSIPUZZLES

1. The square of Kim's age is 336 more than the square of Lucy's age, which is 336 more than the square of Martha's age.
What are the three ages?

2. I am thinking of an 8-figure number, the first figure of which is a 5. If I put a 3 at each end of the number, this new 10-digit number is equal to 67 times the original number.
What was the original number?

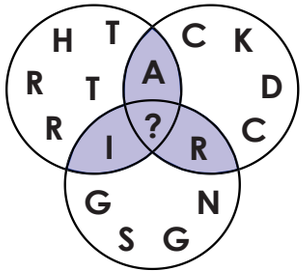
3. Three years ago Clem was twice as old as Stan will be three years from now, but three years from now Clem will be three times as old as Stan is now.
How old is Stan?

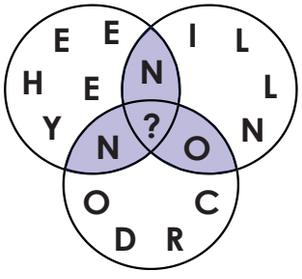
SUDOKU

	6		5	1	9		7	
7				3		1		2
		1					5	
9			7					3
5	2						9	1
1					3			4
	5					4		
4		2		7				9
	7		9	4	6		1	

CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?





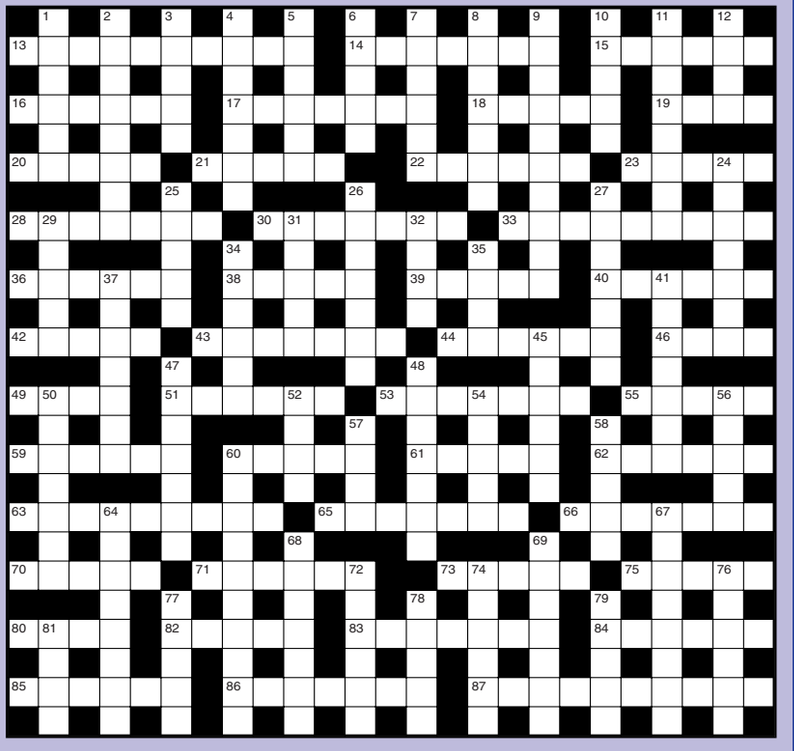
ALPHAMUDDLE

Rearrange the letters to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.

R	O	E	M	A
S	M	G	H	R
W	C	T	S	G
I	T	I	A	T
E	E	T	W	O

			W	
				T
	M			
		G		
S				

CROSSWORD



ACROSS
13 Dismissing (7,3)
14 Second hearing (7)
15 Complains (6)
16 Dry up (6)
17 Directed (7)
18 Manages (5)
19 Measure (4)
20 Colour (5)
21 Endeavoured (5)
22 Male name (6)
23 Cleave (5)
28 Slip (7)
30 Ahead (7)
33 Blushes (7,2)
36 Agree (6)
38 Period (5)
39 Short (5)
40 Tiny (6)
42 Planned (5)
43 Refer to (7)
44 Bottle (6)
46 Sharp (4)
49 Deeds (4)
51 Innumerable (6)
53 Augur (7)
55 Questions (5)
59 Ask (6)
60 Prayer (5)
61 Serious (5)
62 Reluctant (6)
63 Idea (9)
65 Commanded (7)
66 Rust (7)
70 Loot (5)
71 Advancing (6)
73 Number (5)
75 Obvious (5)
80 Run away (4)
82 Is ahead (5)
83 Dog (7)
84 Painter (6)
85 Entertain (6)
86 Teems with (7)
87 Petition (5,5)

DOWN
1 Discipline (6)
2 Punctual (2,3,3)
3 Derisive sound (5)
4 Left over (2,5)
5 Conflict (6)
6 Pen (5)
7 Workroom (6)
8 Fawn (7)
9 Left (7,3)
10 Humiliate (5)
11 Container (8)
12 Move (4)
24 Against (7)
25 Was told (5)
26 Bird (7)
27 Remark (7)
29 Inexact (5)
31 Open (5)
32 Gem (4)
34 Agree (6)
35 Herb (4)
37 Card game (7)
41 Undecided (3,4)
45 Sex (6)
47 Attribute (3,4)
48 Gapes (7)
50 Goodbye (7)
52 Metal (4)
54 Find (5)
56 Sat (5)
57 Back (4)
58 Wine (5)
60 Betraying (6,4)
64 Owing money (2,3,3)
67 Kinsman (8)
68 Rage (7)
69 Remains cheerful (5,2)
72 Rely (6)
74 Whole (6)
76 Attack (6)
77 Illustration (5)
78 Initial (5)
79 Rage (5)
81 Placed (4)

SOLUTIONS

9-er
9-letter word: GRANDIOSE. Dog, goose, sardine.

X is to Y
1. George, 2. Wykehamist, 3. Blue.

Mindbender
625 square centimetres.

Mirror Image
C is the mirror image.

Split Decision >

T	O	P	I	C
I		O		O
T	H	E	I	R
L		T		A
E	A	S	E	L

Crossword
ACROSS: 18 Running out. 14 Retrial. 15 Bleats. 16 Wither. 17 Pointed. 18 Copes. 19 Acre. 20 Shade. 21 Tried. 22 Oliver. 23 Stick. 28 Slither. 30 Forward. 33 Colours up. 36 Concur. 38 Spell. 39 Brief. 40 Minute. 42 Meant. 43 Mention. 44 Flagon. 46 Tart. 49 Acts. 51 Untold. 53 Portend. 55 Pumps. 59 Demand. 60 Grace. 61 Grave. 62 Averse. 63 Brainwave. 65 Ordered. 66 Corrode. 70 Booty. 71 Onward. 73 Seven. 75 Clear. 80 Flee. 82 Leads. 83 Pointer. 84 Artist. 85 Divert. 86 Abounds. 87 Round robin.

DOWN: 1 Punish. 2 On the dot. 3 Snort. 4 To spare. 5 Strife. 6 Write. 7 Studio. 8 Biscuit. 9 Slipped off. 10 Abash. 11 Decanter. 12 Stir. 24 Counter. 25 Heard. 26 Swallow. 27 Comment. 29 Loose. 31 Overt. 32 Ruby. 34 Assent. 35 Dill. 37 Canasta. 41 Not sure. 45 Gender. 47 Put down. 48 Goggles. 50 Cheerio. 52 Lead. 54 Trace. 56 Posed. 57 Bear. 58 Macon. 60 Giving away. 64 In the red. 67 Relation. 68 Passion. 69 Bears up. 72 Depend. 74 Entire. 76 Assail. 77 Plate. 78 First. 79 Paddy. 81 Laid.

Impossipuzzles
1. Ages 17, 25 and 31 years. 2. The number was 52631579. 3. Stan is 12 years old.

Circlegram
A: The letter represented by the question mark is O. Harriott, Cradock, Grigson, all celebrity chefs.
B: The letter represented by the question mark is C. Cheyenne, Lincoln, Concord, all US state capitals.

Alphamuddle
Crows, Remit, Omega, Wight, State.

Sudoku

2	6	4	5	1	9	3	7	8
7	9	5	6	3	8	1	4	2
8	3	1	4	2	7	9	5	6
9	4	6	7	5	1	8	2	3
5	2	3	8	6	4	7	9	1
1	8	7	2	9	3	5	6	4
6	5	9	1	8	2	4	3	7
4	1	2	3	7	5	6	8	9
3	7	8	9	4	6	2	1	5

Memories of the vole

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams

THE water vole may not be the archetypal harbinger of Christmas.

But for me it is, although for all the wrong reasons.

Let me explain. I used to live on the banks of a disused canal. The phrase 'disused canal' may well conjure up images of plastic bags and aquatically entombed shopping trolleys, but not this one. This one was a beauty (still is) and an absolute magnet for wildlife.

In the spring and summer frogs croaked and the reed warblers would sing as the cuckoo provided the backing track (slightly sinisterly considering their penchant for parasitising the nests of the former), the moorhens would give their shrill little cries whilst the kingfishers flashed past en route to their nest under the humpback bridge.

Pretty idyllic, I thought.

But there was one sound that excited me above all, the soft plop of a water vole. You didn't usually see the animal itself. I am only 31 but I feel old telling this story.

I feel as though I'm one of those wise old orators of natural history (in the true sense of the word) and countryside tradition.

Well, of course, you know me too well, to associate my ramblings with 'wise' and indeed I shouldn't be considered old either but I distinctly remember watching these charming little creatures almost any evening I chose, and yet now that would be nigh on impossible.

But why Christmas?

Well I helped survey my local population of water voles about 10 summers ago.

We set large, roomy traps which the voles were only too eager to sit in, munching their way through the apples and carrots we provided until we returned a few hours later (we never left the traps overnight).

A quick weigh, measure and tracking tag and they were back to their canal. There was no doubt about it, this was a hotspot. A few months later, around Christmas, my mother and I thought we glimpsed a mink.

The following spring, not a single vole was found and the population has been extinct ever since.

The shy, secretive water vole is the largest vole in the British Isles. It inhabits the banks of rivers, ponds and canals, but in other parts of the world it is less aquatic and lives mainly on pasture land.

It can often be found living far from water, especially in gardens and orchards and some prefer to live this way all year round.

This odd fact is a nod towards a fairly adaptable lifestyle – usually a winning trait – but not so for the British water vole.

In Britain, habitat loss, especially around water sources as well as pollution running into them; the fragmentation of populations from unsympathetic riverside management; and the crowning violation of them all, the American mink, has meant a 90 per cent reduction in this species.

They are in serious trouble but unlike my old haunts and that canal, down in Buckinghamshire, Shropshire is actively trying to buck the trend. The Whitchurch Water Vole Project is one of the feathers in the cap of the county.

The wetlands around the meres and mosses also hold populations of these charismatic creatures and I know of several different sites where farmers and land owners have encouraged (or at least, not discouraged) water voles on their land, and have been rewarded with sightings.

There is hope, in Shropshire, that Ratty will survive another Christmas.

Ben's last show of the year is this Saturday, all day in Shrewsbury Town Square.

Ben Waddams' painting of the water vole. See more at waddams.webs.com

Serco calls off leisure centres handover deal

SERCO has abandoned plans to sell the management of five of Shropshire's biggest leisures centres.

Late last year, Serco announced plans to offload its environmental services and leisure businesses, including the rights to run centres owned by Shropshire Council.

The 10-year contract to run the centres, including the Quarry Leisure Centre and Sports Village in Shrewsbury, the new Oswestry Leisure Centre, and other centres in Market Drayton and Whitchurch, was signed only three years ago.

Now Serco has announced that it has shelved the plans to offload these divisions, in the wake of the sale of its BPO business last week.

"The recent agreement to dispose of the offshore private sector BPO operations has prompted us to review the previously stated intention to also dispose of our environmental services and leisure businesses," the company said.

"Our conclusion is that, for both strategic and financial reasons, the interests of the group will be best served by retaining these businesses within the portfolio.

"In common with the rest of the group, they provide frontline services to public sector customers.

"In particular, they serve local authorities in the UK, to whom we provide a number of other services and we feel that there is real merit in retaining a broad offering to these important customers.

"Furthermore, the environmental services and leisure businesses have continued to perform well both financially and operationally, and have a strong pipeline of opportunities."

The sale of BPO is set to lead Serco to a big drop in revenue and profits next year.

And the sale prompted a sharp fall in the company's share value when it was announced last week.

Underlying trading profit next year will be about £50 million compared with analysts' consensus forecast of £69 million.

Revenue is likely to fall by about 20 per cent to £2.8 billion.

It landed the contract to run the sites in July 2012, promising to make "significant" investment in the centres over the course of the 10-year contract.

The deal was designed to save £350,000 a year in subsidy payments, as the centres were costing the council £1.2 million a year to run.

Cinema listings

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2 (12A)

Games over - 9/10

The concluding salvo in this epic series lands one devastating blow after another as simmering animosity ignites full-blown slaughter. The unified Districts are preparing for an assault on the Capitol and Katniss must lead the charge, guided by District 13's crusading President, Alma Coin, gamesmaker Plutarch Heavensbee and lovestruck childhood friend Gale Hawthorne.

BLACK MASS (15)

Mafia intrigue – 8/10

FBI agent John Connolly returns to his home town of South Boston which is under the control of a mafia-style gang led by Whitey (Johnny Depp). Connolly secretly contacts Whitey to persuade the kingpin to turn informant to bring down a rival gang. This covert alliance is tested to breaking point when Whitey murders a duplicitous accomplice.

BRIDGE OF SPIES (12A)

I spy a winner – 8/10

Steven Spielberg's Bridge Of Spies is a slow-burning tale of intrigue and bluff that takes its time establishing lawyer James B Donovan (Tom Hanks) as the potential saviour of not one but three lives and plays east against west as he leads negotiations with the Stasi for the return of two captured Americans.

CAROL (15)

A gift – 10/10

Therese Belivet has a humdrum life working in the toy section of Frankenberg's department store. When Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett) sashays into the store looking for a Christmas present a passionate relationship is kindled leading to Carol's estranged husband Harge seeking sole custody of their daughter Rindy. Carol is a triumph, anchored by Blanchett's flawless display.

Parade's cash success

Report by Pam Kingsley

THE organisers of Oswestry's Christmas Parade have thanked local people for their support after helping to raise more than £2,000 for three local charities.

The parade, held on December 4, was organised by Borderland Rotary Club, with support from members of the town's other Rotary clubs, and saw 47 floats brave the weather to travel through the streets of Oswestry to the cheers of thousands of local people.

Main organiser Jonathan Jones said £2,278 was raised on the day, which will be split between Oswestry and Borders Food Bank, Oswestry Stroke Club and Oswestry Community Support Group.

Mr Jones said: "I would like to give huge thanks to the people of the town and surrounding areas who defied the dire weather forecast and turned out to watch the intrepid floats who made up the 2015 Christmas Parade.

"We especially wish to thank the shops and businesses in the town who generously donated to the chosen charity funds, local transport companies whose loan of the lorries enabled the event to happen at all, Griffiths Tool Hire for the loan of roadside barriers, Oswestry Town Council for the use of the Smithfield car park – and a special thanks to HSBC Wrexham for allowing us to monopolise their coin counting machine for two hours.

"We are still waiting for some outstanding pledged donations so the final total is expected to be even higher."

There was plenty of entertainment during Oswestry Christmas Parade

Book reviews

HISTORY OF BRITAIN'S RAILWAYS

By Julian Holland
Published by Times Books

To attempt to cover a subject as wide ranging as the history of Britain's railways over four centuries in a 300-page book is ambitious to say the least but Julian Holland has had a pretty good go at it. The text is organised both chronologically and thematically. Chapters deal with subjects ranging from the Expansion and Railway Mania of the 1840s to Privatisation and High-Speed from 1994 onwards. Within each chapter is a series of sections devoted to specific topics within that period. This structure helps to make a huge subject just about manageable. This £30 book is lavishly illustrated throughout with a range of painting, photos, maps and posters and worth picking up for this alone.

By Tom Ferris

PRIVATE EYE ANNUAL 2015

Edited by Ian Hislop
Published by Private Eye

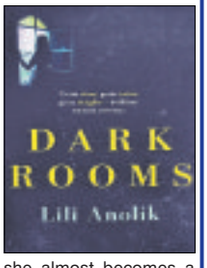
Having not read a Private Eye for a long time, I was interested to see how it compares with the "old days". Well, it's now in colour, and some of the things I used to enjoy, like the headline bloopers, are missing in this volume. But otherwise the blend is familiar, with lots of cartoons, skit stories, speech bubbles, and so on. Jeremy Corbyn is, of course, a gift for the satirists, and there is plenty of new stuff – new to me, that is, although regular readers will no doubt be familiar with it.

Very topical is the cartoon which depicts two RAF jets on a Middle East bombing mission. "It just seems a long way to come to bomb a load of blokes from South London," says one pilot.

By Toby Neal

DARK ROOMS

By Lili Anolik
Published by HarperCollins



Nica Baker, aged 16, pretty, and at boarding school in Connecticut, is found dead. In the claustrophobic atmosphere of the school peer-pressure and emotions run high, and sometimes suicide seems the only way out of difficult situations. However, although the matter seems to be cleared up quickly, Nica's older sister Grace refuses to believe that justice has been done. Grief-stricken, and determined to find out why her sister died, Grace sets out to discover what really happened. By doing so she almost becomes a victim herself as a killer becomes aware of her investigations. Anolik has come up with a tense thriller which has plenty of twists to keep the reader guessing.

By Sally Bunn

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Shropshire STAR

A pop-up panto visited Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital

Snow White is this year's panto at Oakengates Theatre @ The Place

Panto time means Christmas is near

YOU definitely know it's nearly Christmas when the pantomime season gets underway and this year yet again there is plenty of thigh-slapping fun to keep us all entertained.

Many venues throughout Shropshire and Mid Wales are staging pantos to keep people in the Oswestry and Welshpool area entertained.

Dick Whittington is this year's panto at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury.

Gags, mayhem and show-stopping scenes are in store at Shropshire's biggest show.

The Theatre Severn production attracts almost 40,000 people each year, making it a major money-spinner for the venue.

This year's spectacular show stars Shropshire's favourite Dame, Brad Fitt, as Dolly the Cook.

It is produced by the team who created recent box office record-breakers Jack and the Beanstalk, Peter Pan and Sleeping Beauty.

Venue spokesman Pip Bayley said: "Dick Whittington is a thrilling tale of good against evil, the search for true love and exciting adventures to far-off lands.

"There are stunning sets and costumes, big musical numbers and hysterical comedy – not to mention lots of audience participation, and a few big surprises.

"Dick Whittington is returning to Shrewsbury for the first time in 20 years and we are all happy to see it back."

The cast also includes Ben Thornton, Eric Smith, Jemma Carlisle and Josh James.

At the Oakengates Theatre @ The Place in Telford this year's panto is Snow White.

Jeremy Edwards, Nicole Faraday and Amy Reader will star as The Prince, The Wicked Queen and Snow White in the pantomime.

The much-loved fairy tale of evil and vanity battling with youth and innocent beauty features a host of colourful characters, who will be brought to life on a spectacular set.

There is plenty of pantomime fun and frolics – and local jokes – at Oakengates Theatre. A theatre group has ensured youngsters at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have not missed out on the panto fun.

SPECIAL REPORT

Round-up by Sue Austin

A pop-up pantomime was held on Friday on Alice Ward at the Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital courtesy of the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Starlight is a national charity that grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children and provides entertainment in hospitals and hospices across the UK.

The visit to Oswestry was part of an eight-week tour which sees the Starlight Christmas Pantomime visiting children's wards throughout the country, starting at Evelina London Children's Hospital and finishing at Grace House Hospice in Sunderland.

Suzanne Marsden, ward manager on Alice Ward, said: "We know that play can significantly help to improve a child's hospital experience and we are very grateful to Starlight's Christmas Pantomime for helping bring some festive fun to the ward.

"It really does allow our young patients to forget about their illness for a short while and experience the magic of Christmas that every child deserves."

This year's pantomime is Aladdin. The new adaptation of the classic children's story is full of fun and the young patients had the chance to laugh, cheer and sing-along as the four actors performed for the children, their families and the staff.

Sue Wildman, dead of children's services at Starlight Children's Foundation, said: "Starlight aims to distract children from the pain and anxiety that they feel as a result of their illness."

She added: "Starlight's Christmas Pantomime is a fabulous way of spreading some much needed festive cheer to poorly children and their families spending time in hospitals and hospices over the Christmas period."

Dick Whittington is this year's Theatre Severn panto

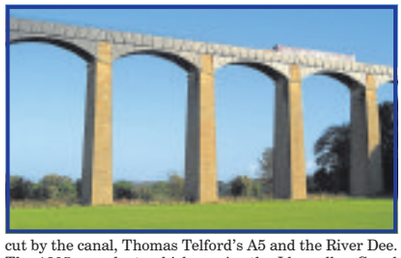
Famous aqueduct to get share of lottery cashpot

IT has given enjoyment to visitors for generations and has staged various entertainment events and now Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and its stunning surroundings are to receive a share in £31 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for conservation work.

The historic aqueduct and the surrounding World Heritage Site are among 13 places chosen to receive a funding boost through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership programme, which provides grants for schemes aiming to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character.

Lottery officials announced that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley will receive £1,382,300 for a five-year project which will invest in key visitor sites and engage communities living locally.

The project will centre on the landscape of the Dee Valley and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site, focussing on the journeys that have been, and continue to be, a key feature of the area which is cut by the canal, Thomas Telford's A5 and the River Dee. The 1805 aqueduct, which carries the Llangollen Canal over the River Dee valley, is the longest and highest aqueduct in Britain and is one of Wales' most recognisable landmarks.



Richard Bellamy, head of Heritage Lottery Fund Wales, said: "Our stunning landscapes define the very character of Wales and are as much a part of who we are as our castles, language and rugby.

"They are as much loved by the people who call Wales home as by tens of thousands of tourists who visit them.

"These fragile places must be conserved.

"However, if carefully managed, our landscape and countryside can also play a vital role in growing our nation's economy.

"Visitors have drawn inspiration from the beautiful Dee Valley in art and poetry since the 18th century, and it continues to captivate tourists in search of the 'sublime' to this day.

"But this landscape is under extreme pressure, with high numbers of visitors drawn to what are often its most fragile sites.

"The communities on its doorstep, born from the area's industrial past, are now less connected to the benefits the landscape offers.

"Thanks to National Lottery players we now have the chance to support this stunning area, with its rich man-made heritage. It will now be looked after in a holistic and appropriate manner, harnessing its economic potential to the benefit of everyone who lives and works there."

star extra TRAVEL

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £149.95

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance.

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Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels (hotel supplements may apply) and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton,returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £239.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Casualty
8pm
Christmas Eve arrives in Holby, and spirits are unexpectedly high in the emergency department, although not everyone is feeling merry. A nervous Cal seeks moral support from Charlie as he goes to meet his birth mother, but anxiety gives way to anger when he realises the woman is seriously ill.

Porridge
8.05pm
Fletch plans to bring a bit of Christmas spirit to Slade Prison in the form of his own home-made booze. But when Mackay and Barraclough uncover the stash in his cell, the crafty con seems in danger of spending the yuletide period in solitary confinement. Festive edition of the classic comedy from 1976.

Notting Hill
11.05pm
A recently divorced bookshop owner finds love with a glamorous Hollywood film star, but ends up the focus of unwanted media interest - which makes maintaining a relationship a tricky proposition. Romantic comedy written by Richard Curtis, starring Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts and Rhys Ifans.

The Simpsons
4.10pm
A corporation buys Springfield Elementary School so it can secretly use the pupils as guinea pigs to test a new range of toys - but Lisa is not fooled and sets out to stop the businessmen. With the guest voices of Tim Robbins, Joe Mantegna and Gary Coleman.

Britain's Favourite Abba Songs
10.30pm
A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrities including singers Jane McDonald, Claire Richards and Liz McClarnon and former Blue Peter presenters Janet Ellis and Peter Duncan introducing their favourite clips.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** James Martin is joined by Lorraine Pascale and Cyrus Todiwala for culinary-based chat, and Olly Smith picks wines to accompany the studio dishes.
11.30 **James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas.** Tips for making gourmet gifts. (R)
12.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
12.10 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker reviews the week's action.
12.55 **Sports Personality – The Final 12.** Gabby Logan presents a closer look at the contenders for the Sports Personality of the Year award, featuring interviews with the 12 people included on the shortlist. (R)
1.55 FILM: **The Muppets (2011).** Three fans try to reunite the famous puppet variety show for one last performance, in a bid to save their theatre from demolition. Comedy, starring Jason Segel and Amy Adams.
3.30 **The Hunt.** Efforts to protect endangered predators, looking at the precarious future for species on five continents, including lions, tigers, polar bears and blue whales. Last in the series. (R)
4.30 **Final Score.** Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland.
5.25 **BBC News.**
5.35 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
5.45 **Pointless Celebrities.** A star-studded version of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.
6.35 **Strictly Come Dancing Grand Final.** The remaining four couples gather for two more turns on the dance floor, before viewers at home decide which of the pro-celebrity duos will progress through to the final three.
8.00 **Casualty.** Christmas Eve arrives, and a nervous Cal goes to meet his birth mother. Meanwhile, Dixie learns her superiors are investigating Jess's complaint.
8.50 **The National Lottery Live.** Frankie Bridge of The Saturdays joins Ore Oduba to push the Lotto button as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.
9.00 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** The final three couples revisit their favourite routines in one last round of performances, before viewers decide which star should be named the champion. Last in the series.
10.10 **BBC News;** Weather.
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest games, including Manchester United v Norwich City at Old Trafford and Everton v Leicester City at Goodison Park; **National Lottery Update.**
11.55 **The Apprentice.** The five remaining candidates must face the formidable interview process with four of Lord Sugar's trusted advisors, Claude Littner, Claudine Collins, Mike Soutar and Linda Plant. (R)
12.55 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
1.00 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 **Race to Super Bowl 50.** Action from the week 14 fixtures. (R)
6.50 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Co Durham, west London and Lancashire. (R)
7.45 **Africa's Fishing Leopards: Natural World.** A leopard and its cubs try to survive in the wilds of Botswana. (R)
8.45 FILM: **Underdog (2007).** Comedy adventure, starring Peter Dinklage.
10.00 FILM: **Bridge to Terabithia (2007).** Fantasy drama, starring Josh Hutcherson.
11.30 **Escape to the Country.** Searching for a rural retreat in Somerset. (R)
12.00 **Best Christmas Bakes Ever.** Jane Asher introduces festive recipes from various BBC cookery shows.
12.45 FILM: **The Bishop's Wife (1947).** An angel helps a bishop sort out his problems, but the cleric fears his heavenly friend also has designs on his wife. Fantasy, starring Cary Grant, David Niven and Loretta Young.
2.30 FILM: **Splash! (1984).** A mermaid falls for a New Yorker she saved from drowning and assumes human form so she can follow him onto dry land. Romantic fantasy comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah.
4.10 **Flog It!** From Cheltenham's Pittville Pump Room.
5.00 FILM: **Dad's Army (1971).** British comedy, starring Arthur Lowe.
6.35 **The Perfect Morecambe & Wise Christmas Special.** Compilations each featuring a selection of classic sketches and routines from the comedy duo's shows. (R)
7.05 **Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands.** Life on Japan's northernmost island Hokkaido, a place where tough animals and ingenious people have adapted to the extremes of the seasons. Last in the series. (R)
8.05 **Porridge.** Mackay and Barraclough discover Fletch is making booze in his cell and the crafty con seems certain to spend Christmas in solitary. Festive special from 1976, with Ronnie Barker. (R)
8.50 **Rudolf Nureyev – Dance to Freedom.** Dramatised documentary detailing the story of Soviet ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev's 1961 defection to the West, a move thought to have helped change the course of the Cold War.
10.20 **QI XL.** Jenny Eclair, Johnny Vegas and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies for an extended edition of the quiz show, in which host Stephen Fry offers up seasonal merriment.
11.05 **The Rise of James Brown: Mr Dynamite.** Documentary charting the singer's journey from impoverished beginnings to becoming one of the biggest names in music, and revealing his pivotal role in the civil rights movement. (R)
12.45 FILM: **SoulBoy (2010).** A teenager growing up in the 1970s gets drawn into a love triangle in the Northern Soul underground music scene. Drama, starring Martin Compston.
2.05 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.30** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.05** Oddbods **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Super 4 **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series **7.50** Mr Bean: The Animated Series **8.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go **9.00** Jessie
9.25 **Murder, She Wrote.** A famous playwright proposes to Jessica. (R)
10.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
11.20 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
11.30 FILM: **The Mirror Crack'd (1980).** Miss Marple investigates a poisoning on a film set involving two feuding female stars. Agatha Christie mystery, with Angela Lansbury, Elizabeth Taylor, Kim Novak and Rock Hudson.
1.35 **Celebrity Squares.** Guests include Jonathan Ross, Tony Law, Nina Conti and Union J. (R)
2.15 **Doc Martin.** Preparations for the doctor's wedding run far from smoothly as a drunken vicar leaves him with a dilemma, and Isobel goes into labour. (R)
3.15 **Midsomer Murders.** A petty thief is impaled with a pitchfork in sleepy Midsomer Mallow, jeopardising the residents' chances of winning a "perfect village" competition. Mystery, starring John Nettles. (R)
5.10 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
5.20 **ITV News and Weather.**
5.35 **Keep It in the Family Christmas Special.** Jack P Shepherd, Jane Danson, Wendi Peters, Paul Sinha, Shaun Wallace and Louie Spence offer help to two feuding families as they take part in a festive edition of the quiz show.
6.35 FILM: **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012).** Unassuming hobbit Bilbo Baggins is recruited to join a band of dwarves on a quest to reclaim their lost homeland. Fantasy adventure, with Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen.
9.45 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined in the studio by Star Wars: The Force Awakens actor Harrison Ford, author and comedy star David Walliams, chef Jamie Oliver and singer-songwriter Jess Glynne.
10.50 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
11.05 FILM: **Notting Hill (1999).** A London bookshop owner falls for a glamorous Hollywood film star, but intrusive media interest makes for a tricky relationship. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts.
1.20 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside, where he invites American guests to air their differences. (R)
3.40 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

Channel 4

6.15 **Great Ethiopian Run 2015.** Highlights of the 10km road race in Addis Ababa.
7.10 **Survival of the Fittest.** Action from the London round of the adventure series.
7.35 **Snowman Triathlon.** Highlights of the event from Plas y Brenin in Capel Curig.
8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra tries to find out why Robert is grumpy. (R)
8.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray tries to help Debra. (R)
9.00 **The Morning Line.** Rishi Persad presents a preview of this afternoon's racing at Ascot.
10.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard's car is stolen. (R)
10.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Penny buys Leonard and Sheldon some Star Trek memorabilia. (R)
11.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Howard tries to win back Bernadette. (R)
11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon's old adversary Wil Wheaton returns. (R)
12.00 **The Simpsons.** A psychiatrist recommends the family rehomes Santa's Little Helper. (R)
12.30 **The Simpsons.** Moe turns his tavern into a gay bar. (R)
1.00 **The Simpsons.** Bart hankers after a mini-bike. (R)
1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Ascot and Haydock Park.
4.00 **Channel 4 News.**
4.10 **The Simpsons.** A corporation buys Springfield Elementary School. (R)
4.40 **The Simpsons.** Futuristic episode in which Bart and Lisa now have families of their own.
5.10 FILM: **Arthur Christmas (2011).** Animated comedy, with the voice of James McAvoy.
7.00 **The World's Weirdest Weather.** Featuring geysers in the middle of a city, clouds that look like they have been cut with a razor, red rainbows, zombie trees and bridges struck by strong winds.
8.00 FILM: **Star Trek (2009).** The first mission of the starship Enterprise leads the crew into a battle with a vengeful Romulan commander from the future. Sci-fi adventure, with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto.
10.30 FILM: **Watchmen (2009).** At the height of the Cold War, former superheroes discover a conspiracy when one of their number is murdered. Comic-book drama, starring Patrick Wilson and Jackie Earle Haley.
1.30 **TFI Friday Christmas Special.** Guests include James Corden, Sir Tom Jones and Bryan Adams. (R)
2.55 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. While Porsche encourages Cleo to go to the police, Lindsey uses Mercedes's drinking habit to her advantage, and Grace and Darren are shocked when Charlie starts talking. (R)
5.05 **Hugh's 3 Good Things.** The chefs create dishes using nuts. (R)
5.20 **Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.** Cooking with chocolate. (R)
5.25 **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help couples in Hertfordshire and north London. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.20** Bob the Builder **6.30** Tickety Toc **6.40** Zack and Quack **6.55** Milkshake! Monkey **7.00** Make Way for Noddy **7.10** Paw Patrol **7.25** Little Princess **7.35** Pip Ahoy! **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.25** Wanda and the Alien **8.45** Toby's Travelling Circus
8.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Mikey befriends a mutant frog.
9.30 **The Saturday Show.** Topical show looking at the week's headlines.
11.30 FILM: **A Country Christmas Story (2013).** Musical, starring Desiree Ross.
1.20 FILM: **This Christmas (2007).** Comedy drama, starring Delroy Lindo, Idris Elba and Loretta Devine.
3.30 FILM: **Angel at Christmas (2012).** Premiere. Family drama, starring Della Reese.
5.10 FILM: **A Boyfriend for Christmas (2004).** Romantic drama, starring Kelli Williams and Shane Baumel.
6.55 **Crackers About Christmas.** Eccentric people who are always in the festive holiday spirit, including a man who celebrates Christmas every day and people who are addicted to Christmas trees and pantomimes. (R)
7.55 **Michael Buble's Christmas Songbook.** The Canadian crooner sings Christmas classics, joined on stage in Vancouver by Rod Stewart, Blake Shelton, Carly Rae Jepsen, Elmo and Oscar the Grouch. (R)
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Middlesbrough and Rotherham v Hull City in the Championship.
10.30 **Britain's Favourite Abba Songs.** A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrity fans including Jane McDonald and Liz McClarnon introducing their favourite clips.
11.55 **Abba: Live in Concert.** The Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979, featuring hits including Voulez-Vous, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. (R)
1.10 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 **Meet the Psychopaths.** Professor Tony Maden reveals how individuals with power can ruin the lives of millions. (R)
4.00 **On Benefits: Life on the Dole.** People living on state welfare in Portsmouth. (R)
4.50 **Make It Big.** The youngsters visit local radio stations. (R)
5.15 **Make It Big.** Josh meets a journalist. (R)
5.45 **Angels of Jarm.** Angel Rafe teaches Wendy that some things happen for a reason. (R)
5.50 **Angels of Jarm.** Penny will not share her cakes with everyone. (R)

Sports Personality of the Year 2015
6.50pm
Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present this year's ceremony live from the SSE Arena in Belfast, where the successor to Lewis Hamilton will be crowned. Hamilton is among the 12 contenders, and will be hoping to land back-to-back wins at this ceremony.

Live at the Apollo Christmas Special 2015
10.10pm
Nina Conti hosts a festive edition of the stand-up show. Featuring performances by Canadian comic Tanyalee Davis, Royal Variety Show regular Hal Cruttenden and The Last Leg star Josh Widdicombe on the stage of the Hammersmith Apollo. Last in the series.

Jekyll and Hyde
6.30pm
Robert has no wish to find the monster that is killing wealthy young men, but the trail is too compelling to resist. It leads him to a fight with a beautiful vampire who shocks him with the news that she's his sister, Olalla. She also tells him Dance is alive and being rebuilt by eel creatures.

Homeland
9pm
Carrie finds herself with a lead to follow. Penultimate episode of the fifth series of the thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists and problems in their personal lives. Claire Danes, Rupert Friend, Sebastian Koch, Miranda Otto, Alexander Fehling and Sarah Sokolovic star.

Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs
11.20pm
A countdown of popular songs. Highlights include the Jackson 5's Santa Claus Is Coming to Town, Greg Lake's I Believe in Father Christmas, the Waitresses' Christmas Wrapping and the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl's Fairytale of New York.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
7.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League games, including Manchester United v Norwich City. (R)
9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
10.00 **Fern Britton Meets Baroness Brady.** Businesswoman, star of The Apprentice and former managing director of Birmingham City Football Club, Karren Brady, discusses undergoing brain surgery. Last in the series.
11.00 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Two studio flats – one in London and one in Scotland – go under the hammer for or very different prices. Plus, Martin Roberts visits a semi-detached property in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
12.00 **Bargain Hunt.** Antiques experts Charles Hanson and Paul Laidlaw help two teams of pilots and sky divers search for potentially valuable items in Lincoln. (R)
1.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
1.15 FILM: **Rise of the Guardians (2012).** Magical beings from folklore unite to defeat an evil spirit plotting to steal the dreams of children. Animated adventure, with the voices of Chris Pine and Alec Baldwin.
2.40 **Merry Madagascar.** Animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Stiller. (R)
3.05 FILM: **Toy Story 3 (2010).** Woody, Buzz and the toys end up in a daycare centre, but plan their escape when they discover how dangerous it is. Animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
4.45 **The Christmas Big Sing.** Sally Magnusson and David Grant present a special episode of Songs of Praise featuring carols and festive music from the Royal Albert Hall performed by a 500-strong choir.
5.25 **BBC News.**
5.40 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
5.50 **Countryfile: Cornish Coastal Christmas.** Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison, Adam Henson and Tom Heap present festive reports from Truro, the Cornish fishing village of Coverack, and Hampshire. Including Weather For the Week Ahead.
6.50 **Sports Personality of the Year 2015.** Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present this year's ceremony live from the SSE Arena in Belfast, where the successor to Lewis Hamilton will be crowned.
9.00 **The Apprentice.** The two finalists must launch their business in the final task, including creating a brand and unveiling their campaign to an audience of industry experts. Last in the series.
11.00 **BBC News.**
11.20 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
11.30 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You.** Compilation of the satirical quiz, looking back at the big news events of 2015, with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton, and guest hosts and panellists. Last in the series.
12.10 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
12.15 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 **Big Dreams Small Spaces.** (R)
7.15 **Countryfile.** (R)
8.15 **An Island Parish: Falklands.** (R)
8.45 **Natural World: Beavers Behaving Badly.** (R)
9.45 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.**
11.15 **Simply Nigella: Christmas Special.** (R)
12.15 **MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.
1.00 **Hi-de-Hi!** A model volcano ruins Ted's act. (R)
1.45 **Equestrian: Olympia.** The Olympia International Horse Show.
4.30 **Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em.** A Christmas edition of the sitcom from 1974. (R)
5.20 **Flog It!** From Andover.
6.25 **The Good Life.** Margo and Jerry are forced to spend Christmas with Tom and Barbara. Seasonal special from 1977, starring Richard Briers, Penelope Keith, Paul Eddington and Felicity Kendal. (R)
6.50 **Christmas University Challenge.** New series. Jeremy Paxman chairs the first in a series of special festive edition of the quiz, with famous graduates of University College London and the University of Birmingham.
7.20 **To The Manor Born: 25th Anniversary Special.** Christmas revival from 2007. Audrey prepares to celebrate her wedding anniversary, but finds the event threatened by secrets from her husband's past and her feckless nephew. (R)
8.20 FILM: **Safe Haven (2013).** Premiere. A woman trying to make a fresh start in a coastal town realises she must confront the dark past she is running from. Romantic drama, with Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel.
10.10 **Live at the Apollo Christmas Special 2015.** Nina Conti hosts a special festive edition of the stand-up comedy show from the Hammersmith Apollo, featuring Tanyalee Davis, Hal Cruttenden and Josh Widdicombe. Last in the series.
10.55 **Family Guy.** Peter, Joe, Cleveland and Quagmire help throw Jesus an important birthday party. Animation following the misadventures of America's disaster-prone Griffin family. (R)
11.15 **The Javone Prince Show.** The actor pokes fun at the more ridiculous elements of everyday life via stand-up performances, comedy sketches and music. (R)
11.45 **Country Strife: Abz on the Farm.** Former boy band member Abz Love and his girlfriend Vicky Fallon try to start their own smallholding in Wales, despite having no experience in farming. (R)
12.15 **Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week.** Army training challenge, with Andrew Flintoff. (R)
1.15 **Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week.** (R)
2.15 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)
3.15 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
4.15 **Sign Zone: James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas.** (R)
4.55 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.30** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan **6.50** Dino Dan **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.05** Oddbods **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Super 4 **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series **7.50** Mr Bean: The Animated Series **8.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! **8.30** Lego DC Comics: Batman Be-Leaguered **9.00** Jessie
9.25 **FIA Formula E Championship.** The Punta del Este ePrix.
10.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
11.20 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
11.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
12.30 **The Unforgettable Dick Emery.** Tribute to the comedian and actor. (R)
1.00 **Doc Martin.** Aunt Joan keeps quiet about a rare bird nesting on her land to deter egg thieves, but Martin lets out the news, prompting an influx of tourists. Comedy, starring Martin Clunes. (R)
3.00 **Midsomer Murders.** The naked body of a business executive is found dumped in a factory machine, leaving Barnaby and Scott with a complicated mystery to unravel. Detective drama, starring John Nettles. (R)
5.00 **Tipping Point for Text Santa.** Mark Foster, Bobby George, Chris Kamara and Tanni Grey-Thompson compete. (R)
6.00 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
6.15 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.30 **Jekyll and Hyde.** Robert fights with a beautiful vampire who shocks him with the news that she is his sister. Fantasy adventure, starring Tom Bateman and Wallis Day.
7.30 **The Sound of Music Live!** Popular musical The Sound of Music is brought to life on soundstages at London's Three Mills Studio, in a live TV dramatisation of the story of Maria and the von Trapp family.
10.05 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
10.20 FILM: **Love Actually (2003).** Interlinked tales of several people in search of love. Richard Curtis's romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant, Martine McCutcheon, Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Bill Nighy and Liam Neeson.
12.45 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **Motorsport UK.** A chance to see the final rounds of the 2015 Ginetta GT4 Supercup and MSA Formula championships. With commentary by Richard John Neil.
3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4

6.20 **The King of Queens.** A wedding becomes uncomfortable for Doug. (R)
6.45 **The King of Queens.** A neighbour's dog keeps Doug awake. (R)
7.10 **The King of Queens.** Carrie asks Doug to ignore her birthday. (R)
7.35 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert quits the police. (R)
8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert bumps into his ex-wife. (R)
8.30 **Frasier.** Niles asks Frasier whether he should stay with Maris. (R)
9.00 **Frasier.** Linda Hamilton guest stars. (R)
9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** James Morrison performs live in the studio.
12.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** A wealthy benefactor makes an indecent proposal to Leonard. (R)
12.55 **The Big Bang Theory.** Howard is torn between Bernadette and his mother. (R)
1.25 FILM: **Hachi: A Dog's Tale (2009).** Fact-based family drama, starring Richard Gere.
3.15 FILM: **The Addams Family (1991).** Black comedy, starring Anjelica Huston.
5.10 **Channel 4 News.**
5.30 **Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas.** Festive spin-off of the animated films, with the voice of John Leguizamo. (R)
6.00 FILM: **Home Alone (1990).** A boy is left to defend his home from burglars when his family jets off to Paris and accidentally leaves him behind. Comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin.
8.00 **Bear Goes Wild with Barack Obama.** Bear Grylls is joined by the US president for his latest adventure, in which the two of them go on a trek across the Alaskan wilderness and observe the effects of climate change.
9.00 **Homeland.** Carrie follows a lead. Penultimate episode of the fifth series of the thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists and problems in their personal lives.
10.00 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.00 FILM: **Four Christmases (2008).** A couple struggle to make it through four family Christmases on the same day as they see each of their divorced parents in turn. Comedy, with Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon.
12.40 FILM: **Airplane! (1980).** A traumatised war veteran must face his fear and land an airliner when the crew are incapacitated by food poisoning. Spoof disaster movie, starring Robert Hays and Leslie Nielsen.
2.10 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** Guests include Kevin Bridges and Tina Fey. (R)
3.05 **The Undateables: Two Weddings and a Baby.** A catch-up with former participants who have found love. Last in the series. (R)
3.55 **Four in a Bed.** The competition begins at Cherry Tree House in Blackpool. (R)
4.20 **Four in a Bed.** Andy and Caroline Middleton host at the Old Hall Inn in North Yorkshire. (R)
4.50 **Four in a Bed.** (R)
5.15 **Four in a Bed.** (R)
5.40 **Four in a Bed.** (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.45** Tickety Toc **6.55** Zack and Quack **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too **7.15** Make Way for Noddy **7.25** Paw Patrol **7.40** Little Princess **7.50** Pip Ahoy! **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Wanda and the Alien **8.55** Toby's Travelling Circus **9.10** Jelly Jamm **9.30** LazyTown
9.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The turtles are trapped inside their own dreams. (R)
10.30 **Football League Tonight.** Highlights and all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two. (R)
12.00 FILM: **Surf's Up (2007).** Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges.
1.35 FILM: **The Christmas Switch (2014).** Fantasy, starring Brian Krause and Cedric Smith.
3.20 FILM: **Christmas in the City (2013).** Premiere. Drama, starring Ashley Williams.
5.05 FILM: **Pinocchio (1940).** Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Dick Jones.
6.50 **5 News Weekend.**
6.55 FILM: **Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008).** The demon hero battles a renegade elf prince, who plans to reawaken an unstoppable robot army and destroy mankind. Action fantasy sequel, starring Ron Perlman and Selma Blair. Edited for language and violence.
9.00 FILM: **War of the Worlds (2005).** A divorced father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines start to wipe out the human race. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise and Dakota Fanning.
11.20 **Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs.** A countdown of songs guaranteed to make any Christmas party go with a swing, including classics by the Jackson 5, Jona Lewie, Band Aid, the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, and Slade. (R)
2.10 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
4.00 **House Doctor.** Ann Maurice applies her home improvement remedies to a house in Spennymoor, Co Durham, for the purpose of finding a buyer as soon as possible. (R)
4.25 **Make It Big.** Alanna searches for a celebrity guest that the other team members have heard of. Unfortunately, their first choice's fee is too large for the budget. (R)
4.50 **Make It Big.** Keiron hits a snag while confirming the acts. (R)
5.15 **Make It Big.** The day of the event arrives, and the team struggles to ensure everything is organised with only five hours to go before the celebrities turn up. (R)
5.45 **Angels of Jarm.** Murali cares for an injured bird. (R)
5.50 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

Making Friends

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SAMANTHA, 42yrs, seeks gent for festive season, doesn't want to be along again. Age/looks unimportant, GSOH essential. **Box: 4140774. Text only.**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420269**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418169**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3007 Box 418167**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418795**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417341**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 405297**

LUCY, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420237**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420207**

FELICITY, 38yrs, attractive, petite but shapely lady seeks gent for indoor activities! Age/looks/marital status unimportant but must be discreet and non demanding. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 420235**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420195**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417985**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420175**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414701**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420073**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416287**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420043**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420003**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419883**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419855**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419695**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419597**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419595**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419417**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415211**

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTM tactile male farmer for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001**

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins. seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415429**

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins. slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415767**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419417**

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415871**

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416989**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418117**

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419385**

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419383**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416601**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409109**

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419219**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417211**

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419143**

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419075**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416287**

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419033**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418845**

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419031**

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418925**

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418845**

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418843**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418609**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418615**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418609**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418587**

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116**

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418577**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418445**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418369**

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905**

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414773**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418369**

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418347**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416287**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417195**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683**

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50- 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776**

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418193**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418809**

COLIN 48, seeks cuddly large big beautiful woman 45 to 55 for LTR, love, romance, hopefully likes cuddles, kisses, holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5308886**

52YRS old guy genuine down to earth looking for Mrs right for nights in and out, walking, cooking, lives life to the full. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5331215**

MALE looking to meet a nice lady for fun times to spend with. I am 72 and would like to meet a lady between 60 and 70. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5332896**

PHILLIP, 29 years old, 5ft 11ins, stocky build, green eyes, friendly, GSOH, seeks genuine friendly n/s female for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5335424**

PHIL, 58, slim, OHAC, from Wolverhampton, looking for a fun lady for a no-strings relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420265**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 405551**

CARING male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411461**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 396709**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401875**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417601PHIL** 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414991**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417235**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419283**

TALL attractive male, 55, would like to meet older mature women 60 to 75 for close discreet fun. You only live once. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071**

I am an easygoing guy looking for a female 55-66 for a meaningful relationship. I am very sincere and honest. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5326234**

MALE, 70, retired from NHS, seeking a lady for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420147**

WIDOWER 70 plus, seeking female for friendship. Love me love my dog. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417439**

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420135**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420089**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 396709**

6FT well built guy, nicely groomed looking for fun intimate nights or day with slim/medium build attractive lady 35-55. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5132460**

ALAN, 56 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pubs, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419975**

ATTRACTIVE, fit, sporty, tactile, youthful black male seek relationship with lady. N/S. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4851641**

WIDOWER, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slimish lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 375065**

SUBMISSIVE 44year old WLTM dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418463**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 348239**

PROFESSIONAL male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 360283**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408973**

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out, I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418465**

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MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418709**

MIKE late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age / looks for mutual benefits. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481**

STOCKY, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315**

ATTRACTIVE tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419283**

GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419307**

JAMES GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417469**

PETE 47, enjoys walking, meals out, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant, with similar interests for adult fun text only. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063152**

MALE 60s WLTM genuine fun lady, 50/60s nights in or out, likes swimming, walks, music, good food etc for friendship or more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4852727**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 375065**

LEE, 50, seeking an Asian female for discreet fun and maybe more. Dudley area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 419401**

Men seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BI male, single widower, 58, seeks gay male friends near Tamworth. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4355756**

BI curious Gloucester guy 36, slim, married, WLTM gay or bi male aged 60 to 75 for fun times. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4930039**

BI male would like to meet same. 60 to 80 yrs. Must be able to accommodate. Coventry or Birmingham. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

TALL male 57, seeks older male 60 to 80 for adult fun. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071**

TOM young 59 attractive male, decent looking, fit, slimmish, good company & fun loving with many interests, seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340**

Women seeking Women

LONELY mother seeks female friends for enlivening/enlightening coffee chats, likes countryside animals etc. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4860241**

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475**

36YR attractive black curvy female seeking boyish female local for relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4483526**

Friends

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414841**

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deaths

CORTEEN

Isobel

Formerly of Bryn Mawr, latterly being cared for at Bradeney House, Worfield. Beloved Wife of the late Doug and the loving and much loved Mother to Douglas, Lindsey, Fiona and their Families, passed away unexpectedly.

The Funeral Service will take place in Llandysilio Parish Church, Four Crosses on Tuesday, December 22, at 2 o'clock, followed by Interment in the Churchyard.

Family flowers only please, however all donations will support the work of The Alzheimer's Society.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
The Elms,
Four Crosses.
01691 839292

DAVIES

Eric

Passed away peacefully on December 3, 2015, aged 90 years.

Much loved Husband of Joan and a loving Father and Grandfather.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Monday, December 21, at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Dementia UK.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

View your family & friends announcements online!

www.myfamilyannouncements.co.uk/shropshirestar

DAVIES

Gren

Of Sundorne, Shrewsbury. Beloved Husband of Janet and a loving and much loved Dad and Grandad, passed away following a long illness borne with courage and dignity.

The Funeral Service will take place in St Andrew's Church, Stanton-upon-Hine Heath, near Shawbury on Wednesday, December 23, at 1 o'clock, followed by Interment in the Churchyard.

Your very kind donations will support The Motor Neurone Disease Association, for which purpose collection plates will be available.

It is the Family's wish that all attending wrap up warmly, please.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
Frankwell Island,
Shrewsbury.
01743 368999

MIDDLETON

Audrey

Passed away peacefully on December 10, 2015, aged 92 years.

Wife of the late Richard, much loved Mother of Barry and loving Nan of Gareth.

Funeral Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry, on Wednesday, December 23, at 11am, followed by Interment at Oswestry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Midlands Air Ambulance.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

READ

Connie

Of Worthen. Passed away peacefully on December 6, 2015, aged 95 years.

Funeral Service will take place at Lords Hill Chapel, Snailbeach on Monday, December 21, 2015, at 10.30am.

Flowers welcome. Donations will support The Roden Dogs Trust.

All inquiries please to

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Night Out Returns
Taxi has 4 seats to 4 passengers

Vitara quality even better

By Graham Breeze

If Suzuki can tempt you into a showroom bosses are confident of convincing you to part with your money with 69 per cent of test drives converted into sales.

That's why they are confident the new 1.4 Boosterjet Engine in the Vitara S Auto will play a major role in helping them smash sales targets during 2016.

Since arriving in 1988 the Vitara has been picking up accolades thanks to city styling married to capable on and off-road abilities. Now just eight months after the UK launch of the new the S model it is providing character to the Vitara line-up.

The biggest change is the arrival of the 1.4-litre petrol engine with the new Boosterjet technology. This 140PS direct injection turbocharged petrol unit takes Suzuki to a new level with torque available from 1,500 rpm, an incredible 41 per cent more than in the 1.6 – that's over 17 per cent more power, yet there's four per cent better fuel economy.

In fact the automatic model on test averaged 51.3mpg on the combined cycle, while producing only 128g/km of emissions.

For the technical reader the Boosterjet engine uses a small displacement, high torque turbocharger. By controlling the waste gate valve, which closes to create higher boost pressure during heavy load operation and remains open during normal driving, the Boosterjet reduces pumping loss to achieve high levels of power and fuel efficiency.

Suzuki's Allgrip system is standard on the new S range with four driving modes of auto, snow, lock and sport.

There's also hill hold control, hill descent control and a comprehensive list of safety features including adaptive cruise control, an impact absorbing feature and a full set of airbags.

But it's not all about performance because the Vitara looks the part too. For my mind it's the best looking Suzuki so far, firmly expressing the company's SUV styling with a solid looking appearance and a roof line that slopes sharply downwards towards the rear.

The unique S-model trim includes gloss black 17 inch alloys, vertical grille design, a rear upper spoiler, silver door mirrors and very neat red interior stitching on instruments, doors and seating.

You also get rear privacy glass, wheel arch extensions, front and rear silver skid pads, silver roof rails, chrome front grille and side trim and sporty aluminium pedals.

Also fitted are childproof rear door locks, a tyre pressure monitor, radar brake support, emergency stop signalling and a flat tyre pair kit, which means no spare. There's a rear parking camera, parking sensors, adjustable steering and driver's seat, an easy-to-use information system, keyless entry, DAB radio, SatNav, Bluetooth connectivity and steering wheel audio controls.

With 43 per cent of those who visit a Suzuki showroom making a purchase and 69 per cent of those who actually test drive a model doing likewise it's little wonder that the company is actively opening more dealerships across the country.

This new engine for the Vitara range will ensure sales targets continue to be broken during 2016 with orders now being taken for January.

At launch back in May I said the Vitara design looked to have been influenced by Range Rover Evoque, this latest arrival has even more quality, which is reflected in the price tag of just over £23,000.

This new engine for the Vitara range will ensure sales targets continue to be broken during 2016.

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11 Reg	Ford Focus, Titanium X 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 18412mls	£10,995
14 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec Navigator 125PS 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 24045mls, £30 RFL	£10,795
14 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec Ecoboost 125PS 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 33714mls, £30 RFL	£9,995
14 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec EcoBoost 100PS 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 24671mls, £20 RFL	£10,295
15 Reg	Ford Focus, Titanium Navigation 5dr HBK 1.5 Diesel, FSH, 2330mls, £0 RFL	£15,795
59 Reg	Ford Kuga, Zetec 4X4 5dr SUV 2.0 Diesel, 26565mls	£11,495
64 Reg	Ford Kuga, Titanium 4x4 5dr SUV 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 9154mls	£19,595
10 Reg	Honda CRV, ES 5dr SUV 2.0 Petrol, 34410mls	£10,795
06 Reg	Mini Cooper, S 2dr CONV 1.6 Petrol, 50310mls	£5,495
11 Reg	Nissan Juke, ACE 5dr SUV 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 50096mls	£7,995
14 Reg	Skoda Fabia, Greenline 5dr HBK 1.2 Diesel, FSH, 18260mls, £0 RFL	£8,295
62 Reg	Skoda Rapid, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 57145mls, £30 RFL	£7,295
63 Reg	Skoda Octavia, Elegance 140PS 5dr HBK 1.4 Petrol, FSH, 14214mls, £30 RFL	£12,995
62 Reg	Skoda Octavia, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 30653mls, £30 RFL	£8,995
62 Reg	Skoda Octavia, SE 5dr HBK 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 28955mls, £30 RFL	£8,995
63 Reg	Skoda Octavia, SE TSi 105PS 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 11436mls	£11,595
64 Reg	Skoda Octavia, Elegance TSI 140PS 5dr HBK 1.4 Petrol, FSH, 4382mls	£14,995

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2011 11 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA 5-door. Red Metallic, Climate Control 36,000 miles **£7,999**

2014 14 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 STi 5-door Manual. Bright Yellow, 1 Owner, 15,000 miles, FSH **£6,999**

2007 57 BMW X3 2.0 SE Diesel Bronze Metallic, 68,500 miles, Climate Control, Parking Sensors **£9,499**

2010 10 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 GS Manual. Metallic Grey, 2 Owners, FSH, 55,000 miles **£12,499**

2011 61 AUDI A3 1.6 Sportback Manual. Metallic Silver, 32,000 miles, FSH **£10,999**

2007 07 LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS Manual. Metallic Silver, 35,000 miles **£10,999**

2007 57 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 S Manual. Metallic Black, FSH, 65,000 miles **£9,999**

2014 14 SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS SZ-T 5-Door. Green Metallic, 7,990 miles, Parking Sensors, DAB Radio, One Owner **£11,999**

2011 11 FORD FOCUS ST3-door Manual. Bright Orange, 38,000 miles, FSH **£14,499**

2010 60 FORD MONDEO SPORT 1.8 TDCi Hatchback Manual. Metallic Black, 72,000 miles **£5,999**

2011 61	**AUDI A3 1.6** Sportback, Manual, Metallic Silver, 32,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2011 11	**AUDI A1 1.4 TFSi SPORT** 3-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 35,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2008 08	**AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDi S-Line Manual.** Metallic Silver, Sat Nav, FSH + Cambelt, 66,000 miles	SOLD
2012 12	**BMW X1 SERIES 2.0d AUTOMATIC** Metallic Bronze, 51,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£12,999
2007 57	**BMW X3 2.0 SE** Diesel. Bronze Metallic, 68,500 miles, Climate Control, Parking Sensors	£9,499
2011 11	**CHEVROLET LACETTI ESTATE 1.8**, Automatic, 1 Owner	SOLD
2013 63	**CITROEN DS3 D style Plus 1.6,** 1 Owner, Bright Yellow Manual, 12,000 miles, FSH	£8,999
2012 12	**CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.6 HDi** Manual. Metallic Blue, 16,000 miles, 1 Owner	£8,999
2012 61	**CITROEN 1.0 VTR+** 3-door, Red, 20,000 miles, A/C, Zero Road Tax	£4,999
2011 11	**CITROEN C4 PICASSO 1.6 HDi VTR+ MPV.** Bronze Metallic, 57,000 miles, Parking Sensors, FSH	£7,999
2014 14	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi** 5-door. Manual in White, 11,000 miles, 1 Owner, In White, FSH	£10,999
2012 61	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi ZETEC** 5-door Manual. 56,000 miles, FSH, Black	£8,499
2011 11	**FORD FOCUS ST** 3-door Manual. Bright Orange, 38,000 miles, FSH	£14,499
2012 12	**FORD FIESTA TDCi** Manual, 5-door. Bright Red, 17,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2010 60	**FORD MONDEO SPORT 1.8 TDCi Hatchback Manual.** Metallic Black, 72,000 miles	£5,999
2012 12	**HONDA CRV 2.0 SE** Plus 4x4 Manual. Metallic Bronze, 9,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£13,999
2010 10	**JAGUAR 3.0 XF TDV6 LUXURY** 4-door Saloon. In Black with full Leather Interior, 39,000 miles, Reverse Camera, Sat Nav, Climate Control, FSH	SOLD
2012 12	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 GS** Manual. Metallic Grey, 48,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£15,499
2008 57	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 S** Manual. Metallic Gold, FSH	£7,999
2010 60	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 XS** New Shape Auto. Metallic Grey, Sat Nav, Heated Seats, 51,000 miles, FSH	£15,999
2010 10	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 GS** Manual. Metallic Grey, 2 Owners, FSH, 55,000 miles	£12,499
2007 07	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS** Manual. Metallic Silver, 35,000 miles	£10,999
2007 57	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 S** Manual. Metallic Black, FSH, 65,000 miles	£9,999
2008 08	**MERCEDES E220 CDi Avantgarde Auto.** Metallic Black, Full Leather,	£8,999
2004 S4	**MERCEDES CLK 180 KOMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO** Metallic Blue, Leather Seats, 86,000 miles	£5499
2012 62	**MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER S 2.0 Diesel All** 4 5-door. Green, 1 Owner, FSH, 19,900 miles	£14,499
2011 60	**MITSUBISHI LANCER 2.0 TDi HATCHBACK Manual,** Metallic Blue, 57,000 miles, FSH	£6,499
2011 11	**NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA** 5-door. Red Metallic, Climate Control, 36,000 miles	£7,999
2011 11	**NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 2.0 DCi 4x4 Manual.** Metallic Gold, Sat Nav, Sunroof, 1 Owner, 23,000 miles	£13,999
2012 62	**NISSAN NOTE 1.4 NTEC** 5-door, Blue Metallic, One Owner, FSH, Only 10,000 miles	£7,299
2009 09	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4** 3-door, Metallic Blue, 61,000 miles	£3,999
2012 12	**PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi ACCESS** 5-door Manual. Metallic Grey, £30 a year Road Tax, 50,000 miles	£6,499
2011 61	**PEUGEOT BIPPER HDi** Diesel Van. Silver Metallic, Side Loading Door, One Owner, 49,800 miles	£4,999+VAT
2007 57	**PEUGEOT 308 S 1.6 HDi** 5-door. Black, 77,300 miles, Air Conditioning	SOLD
2011 61	**RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi ESTATE Tom Tom,** Manual, Metallic Red, 40,000 miles, 1 Owner	£6,999
2010 10	**RENAULT GRANDE SCENIC 1.5 DCi** 7 Seater, Manual, Metallic Red, 28,000 miles, FSH	£6999
2009 59	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi** Manual, 5-door, Metallic Blue, £30 Road Tax, 48,000 miles	SOLD
2012 12	**SEAT ALTEA XLL 2.0 SE TDi** Estate, Grey Metallic, One Owner, 22,3000 miles, FSH	£9999
2009 59	**SEAT IBIZA SPORT 1.6** Automatic 3-door. Blue Metallic, One Owner, Only 16,000 miles	£5,699
2012 12	**SKODA FABIA 1.6 ELEGANCE** Diesel Estate Manual. 28,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2005 55	**SMART CITY PASSION Convertible Auto**. Silver Metallic, 53,500 miles, £30 Road Tax	£3,499
2014 14	**SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS SZ-T** 5 Door, Green Metallic 7,990 Miles Parking Sensors DAB Radio One Owner	£11,999
2009 09	**SUZUKI SX4 GLX 1.6** 5 Door, Blue Metallic, 36,700 miles, Climate Control, Alloy Wheels, 2 Owners, 36,700 miles	£5,499
2012 62	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN.** Manual, Bright Red, 1 Owner, 7 Seats, 29,000 miles	£8,999
2014 14	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 5-door Manual.** Bright Yellow, 1 Owner, 15,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2011 61	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi** 3-door, Green Metallic, 20,000 miles, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, FSH	£5,999
2009 59	**VOLVO XC90 DS Automatic 4x4,** 7 seater, Metallic Silver, Tow Bar, Roofbars, Bluetooth, 67,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2004 04	**VOLVO V70 DS ESTATE SE AUTO** Metallic Black, Leather, Sat Nav, 120,000 miles, FSH	£3499
2009 59	**VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.6 TDi SE 5-door Manual.** Bright Red, FSH, 17,000 miles	£6,999
2010 59	**VW POLO 1.6 TDi SE** 5-door Manual. Bright Red, only 17,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2009 59	**VW GOLF 1.4S** 3-door. Manual, Metallic Silver, 55,000 miles, FSH	£6,499
2008 08	**VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SE Estate,** Red Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, 47,000 miles, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, 47,000 miles	£10,499

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2008 57 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 S Manual. Metallic Gold, FSH **£7,999**

2008 08 MERCEDES 3220 CDi AVANTGARDE AUTO Metallic Black, Full Leather **£8,999**

2013 63 CITROEN DS3 Dstyle Plus 1.6, 1 Owner, Bright Yellow Manual, 12,000 miles, FSH **£8999**

2009 59 VW POLO 1.6 TDi SE 5-door Manual. Bright Red, FSH, 17,000 miles **£6,999**

2008 08 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SE Estate, Red Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, 47,000 miles, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, 47,000 miles **£10,499**

2010 60 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 XS New Shape Auto. Metallic Grey, Sat Nav, Heated Seats, 51,000 miles, FSH **£15,999**

2012 62 MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER S 2.0 Diesel All 4 5-door. Green, 1 Owner, FSH, 19,900 MILES **£14,499**

2012 12 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 GS Manual. Metallic Grey, 48,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH **£15,499**

2012 12 HONDA CRV 2.0 SE Plus 4x4 Manual. Metallic Bronze, 9,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH **£13,999**

2011 11 NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 2.0 DCi 4x4 Manual. Metallic Gold, Sat Nav, Sunroof, 1 Owner, 23,000 miles **£13,999**

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52 JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles ... £3995
V JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN ... POA
54 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6, Auto, BRG, 86,000 Miles, stunning car ... ~~£2495~~ £2495

CAR OF THE WEEK

57 RENAULT CLIO SPORT 2.0 Black, 66,000 miles, Stunning Car ... SOLD

14 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE Blue, 7000 miles ... SOLD
61 FORD GRAND C-MAX TITANIUM 2.0 TDCi Auto, Blue, 56k, AUTOMATIC ... £6995
11 SEAT EXEO 2.0TDI CRS (140), Black, 6 speed, full history ... £4995
60 VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.8 Silver, 24k, Lady Owner ... ~~£4795~~ £5295
09 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi. Black, High Mileage ... ~~£4995~~ £3995
09 FIAT BRAVO 1.4 Dynamic, 5 door, Silver, Alloys ... ~~£4995~~ £3995
58 PEUGEOT 207 SHDi 1.6 (90). Red, low mileage, full history ... ~~£2995~~ SOLD
08 FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climate, 3 door, bronze metallic ... ~~£3495~~ £3495
08 FORD FIESTA 1.4 Ghia, 5 door, blue ... ~~£2995~~ £2995
08 FORD KA, blue, 68,000 miles ... ~~£1495~~ £1895
57 MINI COOPER 1.6. White, 1 Lady Owner ... SOLD
56 (07) MERCEDES A180 CDI CLASSIC SE Diesel, Silver, ... ~~£3795~~ £3395

56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic ... £2895
56 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HDi Diesel. Silver, FSH ... £2195
55 PEUGEOT 307 XSi 2.0 HDi Diesel. Bronze Met, Leather ... £3550
54 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6 Auto, BRG, 86,000 miles, stunning car ... ~~£2895~~ £2495
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver ... £2495
53 BMW 320 2.2 CI COUPE Uprated Alloys, Extensive Service History, Low Mileage for year, Outstanding Condition, Must be Seen ... ~~£3495~~ £3100

SUMMER SUN / SUMMER FUN

03 FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible ... £1795
54 MG TF Convertible, in Yellow, ... £1595

AUTOMATICS

05 SAAB 95 VECTOR 2.0 AUTOMATIC , Superb condition, must be seen ... ~~£2295~~ £1795
R HONDA CIVIC 1.6LS, Exceptional Condition, Previously supplied by ourselves to one of our customers 10 Years ago. Owned by same customer since then. ... £995

4 X 4 / COMMERCIALS

07 RENAULT KANGO DIESEL SLD High mileage, extensive history ... £2000+VAT
P RANGE ROVER 4.6 HSE AUTO Leather, Excellent Cond ... £1995
Y MITSUBISHI SHOGUN PININ Very clean and tidy for age,cheap 4x4 for the winter ... £1200

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Motoring

Dealership staff smashing own record sales figures

Staff at a Shropshire motor dealership are celebrating after smashing their previous record year sales figures – with weeks to spare before the end of the year. The team at Furrows of Oswestry, in Whittington Road, have had an incredible 12 months, with profit levels up by nearly 34 per cent on the previous year.

Sales manager Daniel Edwards said: "We were already pleased with our figures from 2014 which was a record year for us, so to get the news that we've smashed even that previous achievement was fantastic for everyone involved.

"It was even better to hear that we broke all records with weeks still to spare before the actual end of the year. So now we've set ourselves a real target for 2016 and we're all working hard to make sure the success continues."

Daniel, who joined Furrows as a trainee in 2006, has worked his way up to the position of Sales Manager, and has run the sales team for the past 12 months.

"The most noticeable rise in sales has been in the used cars sector – we are now stocking more used vehicles on site than ever before, and customers can choose from over 90 vehicles. As well as our Skoda-approved used vehicles, we are selling all brands of cars, and there really is a huge range to choose from."

Daniel said Furrows had worked with Skoda to build up the approved range of used vehicles for sale, and the company had set some extremely tough criteria.

"Each used Skoda vehicle has gone through a rigorous multi-point check, and comes with a 12-month warranty and 30-day exchange policy, subject to terms and conditions. So customers can have complete peace of mind and confidence when they purchase one of the vehicles in this range that they really are getting the very best in used cars."

Daniel said new car sales had also been excellent in 2015, with both Ford and Skoda vehicles proving popular.

"We're all looking forward to building on our sales success in 2016, and it looks set to be a very exciting year for Furrows of Oswestry with the official opening of our brand new Skoda showroom. We can't wait to see what the next 12 months brings, but we're determined to aim high and work towards yet another record-breaking year."

Pictured: Sales manager Daniel Edwards celebrates a record-breaking year at Furrows of Oswestry

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11 MERCEDES C CLASS C250 CDI EST. MET. BLUE, FULL MERCEDES-BENZ HISTORY, CRUISE CONTROL, SAT. NAV., FULL BLACK LEATHER SEATS, AMG ALLOY WHEELS, 55K ... £14,495
11 FORD MONDEO EDGE TDCI EST. SILVER, FULL SERV. HIST., ONE PREV. OWNER, 64K ... £7,850
11 V/W POLO SEL Tdi 90 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, AC, ONE OWNER, ALLOY WHEELS, F.S.H, £30 ROAD TAX, 55K ... £7,475
09 V/W GOLF SE Tdi, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, 58K ... £7,495
12 SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £30 ROAD TAX, 10K ... £6,495
60 FIAT 500 LOUNGE, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX, 25K ... £5,995
61 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTI SE ECO FLEX 130PS, RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX, 37K ... £5,795
12 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY. £30 ROAD TAX, 42K ... £5,495
60 PEUGEOT 207 S 1.4, 5 DOOR, BLACK, AIR CON, ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HIST, 36K ... £4,795
59 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME 3 DOOR, MET. BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, SERV. HISTORY, 38K ... £4,290
09 NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACENTA, BEIGE , AIR CON., CRUISE CONTROL, ALLOY WHEELS, F.S.H, 53K ... £4,195
57 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC HDI 1.6, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, 64K ... £3,995
09 PEUG.207 VERVE 1.4 5 DR., BLUE, CD, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERV. HIST, 49K ... £3,995
57 CITROEN C3 EXECUTIVE Hdi, GREY, AIR CON. ALLOY WHEELS, SERV. HIS. £30 ROAD TAX, 49K ... £3,695
60 NISSAN PIXO N-TEC, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX, 46K ... £3,650
08 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.2 16V, BLACK, ALLOYS, SERVICE HISTORY, 50K ... £3,495
06 FIAT GRANDE PUNTO ACTIVE TURB DIESEL 1.3, GREY, FULL SER. HIST., £30 ROAD TAX, 64K ... £2,395
54 VAUXHALL ASTRA ENJOY CDTI, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY,74K ... £2,150
05 FORD KA, SILVER, 2 OWNERS, LOW MILEAGE, 22K ... £1,795
53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, 68K ... £1,650

DUE IN

60 MERCEDES SPRINTER LWB 313 CDI, WHITE, 125K ... DUE IN

TO CLEAR

53 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 1.6 VALVE CLUB, 7 SEATER, BLUE113K ... £995
05 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 3 DOOR, RED, POWER STEERING, SERVICE HISTORY, 117K ... £995
02 ASTRA VAN 1.7 Dti, WHITE,100K ... £1,200

COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT

07 TOYOTA HILUX HL2D-4D 4X4 D/C, WHITE, ONE OWNER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, 30K ... £8,750
60 TRANSIT 280 SWB STD. ROOF, WHITE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, 48K ... £7,540
10 TRANSIT T280, WHITE, AIR CON, SLIDING DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY, 50K ... £7,290
60 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY C20 TDI SWB, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, 34K ... £5,995
60 VAUXHALL ASTRA CDTI CLUB 1.9, WHITE, 6 SPEED, AIR CON, ONE OWNER, F.S.H, 28K ... £5,450
10 V/W CADDY C20 PLUS SDI, BLUE,AIR CON, ELEC.WIND,TWIN SIDE DOORS, F.S.H. 35K ... £5,175
05 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB CREW CAB TIPPER, WHITE 136K ... £4,995
60 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI SE, 3 SEATER, WHITE, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY, 47K ... £4,695
11 PEUGEOT BIPPER Hdi PROFESSIONAL, SIDE DOOR, WHITE, CENTRAL LOCKING, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY, 57K ... £4,195
60 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY, 67K ... £4,195
60 VAUXHALL ASTRA CDTI 1.7 CLUB, WHITE, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY, 81K ... £3,995
10 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI S, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, 72K ... £3,675
08 CITROEN BERLINGO 600X SWB 1.6 Hdi, BLUE, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY,64K ... £2,650

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Diesel Selection

15 (15) RENAULT CAPTUR 1.4 DCI DYNAMIQUE S Arizona/Black ... DUE IN
14 (14) NEW PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDI ACTIVE 5-dr 7,000 miles ... £11,750
14 (64) RENAULT CAPTUR .15 DCI DYNAMIQUE 7,000 MILES ... £13,450
13 (13) KIA RIO 1.4 Ecodynamic 2. 5dr. Electric blue ... £11,850
13 (13) KIA CEED 2 CRDi Infra Red, 18,000 miles ... £10,750
12 (62) FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi ZETEC Phantom Black ... £7,850
11 (61) KIA VENGA 2 1.4 CRDi Blue ... DUE IN
11 (61) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI ACENTA Red ... £10,750
12 (62) PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDi ACTIVE Silver, ... £8,950
11 (11) VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi SRi 6,000 miles, £30 Road Tax ... £10,950
10 (10) VOLVO V50 1.6D DRIVE-S ESTATE, black ... £7,850
10 (10) RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION Silver ... £8,650
09 (09) KIA CEED 1.6 CRDi GS Abyss Blue, 30,000 miles, ... £4,500
09 (09) PEUGEOT 308 S 1.6 HDi Estate. Silver ... £7,850
09 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN 5-dr. Silver, ... £6,750
08 (58) VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT, Lovely Condition ... £7,850
08 (08) FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi ZETEC, Metallic Green ... £6,950
08 (08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI MATCH, Reflex Silver ... £6,750
07 (57) MINI COOPER 1.6 D Chilli Red / Chequered Roof ... £8,250
07 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDi SPORT. Shadow Blue ... £6,850
07 (07) VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 1.9Tdi S. Shadow Blue, 7 Seats ... £7,850
05 (55) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN. Black ... £3250

Petrol Selection

14 (14) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI 5-dr, Asteroid grey ... £7,950
13 (63) PEUGEOT 107 1.0 ACTIVE 3-dr, red ... DUE IN
13 (13) KIA RIO 2 1.4 in Blaze Red ... £9,975
13 (13) KIA PICANTO 2. 5-dr. Galaxy Black ... £7,650
13 (13) KIA PICANTO 1.0 CITY 3-dr. Blaze Red, 9,000 miles, ... £6,850
12 (12) SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2 SZ4 Red 8,000 miles ... £8,450
12 (12) RENAULT CLIO 1.2 5-dr. DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, Silver ... £5950
12 (62) NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA Arctic White ... £10,250
11 (61) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5-dr, 21,000 miles ... £5,850
11 (11) HONDA JAZZ 1.4 ES 5-dr, Grey, 3,700 miles ... £9,650
10 (60) MINI ONE 1.6 CLUBMAN Graphite, 27,000 miles, ... £7,850
10 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 Turbo, Black ... WAS £11,450 NOW £10,450
10 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRi Technical Grey ... WAS £11,650 NOW £10,650
10 (10) NEW RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, 6,000 miles...WAS £10,250 NOW £9,250
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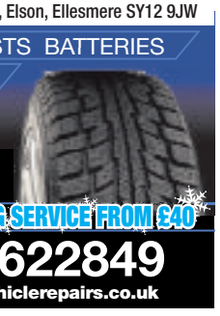

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How they stand

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Burton Albion	21	14	2	5	27	16	44
Coventry City	21	11	6	4	38	22	39
Walsall	20	11	6	3	35	19	39
Gillingham	21	11	5	5	39	28	38
P'borough Utd	21	10	4	7	47	32	34
Wigan Athletic	21	9	7	5	29	20	34
Bury	21	9	6	6	32	30	33
Millwall	20	9	4	7	31	28	31
Southend Utd	20	8	7	5	25	22	31
Bradford City	20	8	7	5	22	20	31
Sheffield Utd	21	8	6	7	33	30	30
Port Vale	21	8	6	7	27	24	30
Rochdale	21	7	6	8	25	25	27
Scunthorpe Utd	21	8	3	10	25	28	27
Doncaster Rvrs	21	7	6	8	23	28	27
Swindon Twn	21	7	4	10	31	35	25
Chesterfield	21	7	2	12	25	36	23
Shrewsbury Twn	21	6	4	11	27	32	22
Blackpool	21	6	4	11	17	28	22
Fleetwood Twn	20	6	3	11	27	29	21
Barnsley	21	6	3	12	28	36	21
Colchester Utd	21	5	5	11	32	52	20
Oldham Athletic	20	3	10	7	22	32	19
Crewe Alexandra	21	5	4	12	21	36	19

Vanarama North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Nuneaton Twn	21	12	5	4	38	22	41
AFC Fylde	19	12	4	3	38	21	40
North Ferriby Utd	20	10	7	3	44	24	37
Solihull Moors	18	10	7	1	33	14	37
Boston Utd	22	11	3	8	38	35	36
Tamworth	19	8	10	1	27	14	34
Harrogate Twn	19	10	4	5	31	22	34
Stockport Cnty	21	8	7	6	26	24	31
Curzon Ashton	19	7	6	6	30	25	27
G'borough Trinity	19	8	3	8	24	26	27
Chorley	19	7	4	8	30	33	25
Stalybridge Celtic	18	7	3	8	28	32	24
Bradford PA	18	5	8	5	25	23	23
FC Utd of Man	19	6	3	10	26	34	21
Alfreton Twn	20	5	5	10	23	27	20
Brackley Twn	18	5	5	8	23	27	20
Lowestoft Twn	20	5	5	10	22	34	20
Hednesford Twn	19	4	7	8	25	35	19
Worcester City	18	5	3	10	21	29	18
Corby Twn	21	4	6	11	25	46	18
Gloucester City	19	4	5	10	13	25	17
AFC Telford Utd	20	3	4	13	15	33	13

Evo-Stik Div One South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stafford Rgrs	21	15	5	1	45	13	50
Coalville Twn	20	12	5	3	35	16	41
Shaw Ln A'force	17	10	5	2	43	17	35
Spalding Utd	20	10	5	5	33	24	35
Mkt D'ton Twn	20	9	3	8	31	29	30
Daventry Twn	22	9	3	10	29	41	30
Basford Utd	19	8	5	6	26	21	29
Romulus	22	8	4	10	36	36	28
Lincoln Utd	18	7	6	5	26	24	27
Sheffield	20	7	6	7	36	36	27
Chasetwn	18	7	5	6	31	22	26
S'bridge PS	15	7	4	4	25	18	25
Leek Twn	17	7	4	6	26	28	25
Newcastle Twn	20	7	3	10	31	37	24
Belper Twn	19	6	5	8	27	33	23
Kidsgrove Ath	17	5	7	5	38	32	22
Gresley	18	7	1	10	22	28	22
Goole AFC	19	7	1	11	27	40	22
Rugby Twn	19	5	5	9	26	39	20
Carlton Twn	20	5	2	13	29	39	17
L'borough Dyn	20	5	2	13	29	55	17
Tividale	21	2	6	13	25	48	12

West Midlands (Regional) League

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shawbury Utd	22	15	4	3	84	37	49
AFC Bridgnorth	20	14	2	4	47	16	44
Cradley Twn	23	13	4	6	55	31	43
Haughmond	25	12	7	6	63	42	43
W'Ton Spt Com	22	12	2	8	61	46	38
W'Ton Casuals	23	11	5	7	53	47	38
Dudley Sports	21	11	4	6	48	40	37
Wellington	20	9	4	7	44	31	31
Smethwick Rgrs	25	9	4	12	54	67	31
Pegasus Juniors	21	9	3	9	39	43	30
Gornal Athletic	22	9	2	11	38	36	29
Ellesmere Rgrs	19	8	4	7	36	32	28
Malvern Twn	21	9	1	11	48	45	28
Dudley Twn	21	7	7	7	34	35	28
BC Rangers	19	7	6	6	34	26	27
Stone OA	20	8	3	9	32	40	27
Bewdley Twn	22	8	3	11	35	45	27
Willenhall Twn	22	7	5	10	39	53	26
Bilston Twn Com	20	6	5	9	28	35	23
Bromyard Twn	20	5	2	13	37	68	17
Wellington Ams	20	3	5	12	23	53	14
Tipton Twn	22	0	4	18	13	77	4

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
AFC Ludlow	19	15	2	2	66	21	47
Hereford Lads	15	11	2	2	41	15	35
Darlaston Twn	17	9	5	3	43	27	32
Shifnal Twn	15	9	2	4	37	24	29
St Martins	17	9	2	6	45	34	29
F C Stafford	18	8	5	5	32	30	29
Wem Twn	18	9	1	8	44	38	28
Kington Twn	14	7	4	3	31	25	25
Wednesfield	15	5	6	4	24	22	21
Shenstone Path	17	7	0	10	28	36	21
Trysull	16	6	2	8	23	24	20
Wrens Nest	16	5	4	7	26	41	19
Bartestree	18	5	3	10	28	37	18
Penncroft	16	4	4	8	31	44	16
Bustleholme	18	4	3	11	31	56	15
Team Dudley	14	3	3	8	28	40	12
Worcs Raiders	14	3	0	11	28	50	9
Wyrley	15	1	4	10	23	45	7

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Newport Twn	14	12	2	0	51	19	38
Old Wulfrunians	15	11	1	3	46	17	34
W'Ton Utd	14	7	2	5	36	36	23
Telford Juniors	16	5	6	5	31	26	21
Powick Rangers	11	5	4	2	27	19	19
Warstone Wdrs	10	5	3	2	38	20	18
Wonder Vaults	10	5	3	2	25	13	18
Bilbrook F C	12	5	3	4	23	20	18
Malvern Twn U21	15	5	3	7	29	32	18
Tividale Res	13	4	2	7	28	40	14
Sikh Hunters	14	4	2	8	29	55	14
Red Star Alma	10	3	3	4	26	21	12
Tipton Youth AFC	14	3	2	9	28	42	11
Gornal Colts	12	3	2	7	28	44	11
Wrens Nest Res	16	1	2	13	15	56	5

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cefn Druids	15	11	0	4	30	14	33
Prestatyn Twn	14	10	1	3	37	20	31
Caernarfon Twn	14	9	3	2	31	11	30
Holywell Twn	14	9	2	3	33	14	29
Flint Twn Utd	15	8	2	5	35	21	26
Denbigh Twn	15	8	2	5	32	27	26
Guilsfield	14	8	2	4	29	24	26
H'head Hotspur	14	6	4	3	24	18	22
Gresford Ath	14	6	3	5	25	22	21
Porthmadog	15	6	1	8	24	32	19
Buckley Twn	15	4	2	9	25	37	14
Conwy Borough	13	4	1	8	15	20	13
Llanfair Uited	13	4	0	9	21	33	12
Mold Alexandra	14	3	2	9	22	32	11
Rhayader Twn	13	2	1	10	14	47	7
Caersws	14	2	0	12	12	31	6

Spar Mid Wales League

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Llanrhaeadr	13	8	1	4	38	24	25
Carno	12	8	0	4	25	11	24
Penrhyncoch	9	7	2	0	29	11	23
Welshpool	15	7	2	6	22	23	23
Waterloo	13	6	2	5	21	24	20
Knighton	9	6	1	2	25	9	19
Hay St Mary	14	6	1	7	36	36	19
Machynlleth	14	6	1	7	28	32	19
Ll'rindod Wells	10	6	0	4	18	14	18
Llanidloes	12	5	1	6	19	28	16
Aberaeron	12	4	3	5	18	22	15
Bow Street	13	5	0	8	23	34	15
Tywyn Bryncrug	12	3	0	9	20	37	9
Montgomery	14	1	2	11	12	29	2

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kerry	17	12	0	5	74	24	36
Builth Wells	16	10	2	4	40	24	32
Berriew	12	10	1	1	40	14	31
Aberystwyth Uni	12	9	1	2	46	19	28
Borth Utd	13	7	3	3	35	19	24
Radnor Valley	14	8	0	6	35	23	24
Abermule	14	8	0	6	32	35	24
Bettws	16	6	5	5	31	37	23
Churchstoke	15	6	2	7	36	41	20
N'bridge-on-Wye	16	5	1	10	27	65	13
Presteigne	15	3	3	9	25	45	12
Dyffryn Banw	13	3	2	8	22	24	11
Bont	10	3	0	7	12	26	9
Penybont	14	2	2	10	15	32	8
Four Crosses	15	2	2	11	22	64	8

Watson Financial Mid Wales League South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rhayader Res	14	10	3	1	48	16	33
Brecon	12	9	1	2	39	16	28
Knighton Res	12	8	3	1	37	15	27
Llanidloes Res	14	6	1	7	28	28	19
Presteigne Res	13	5	2	6	25	32	17
Carno Res	11	5	1	5	22	25	16
Ll'dod Wells Res	13	5	1	7	22	31	16
H St Marys Res	13	4	3	6	34	31	15
Newcastle	10	4	2	4	17	18	14
St Harmon	12	3	4	5	25	30	13
Brecon N'cote	12	4	2	6	26	36	11
Builth Wells Res	15	3	1	11	22	51	10
Talgarth Town	9	1	2	6	7	23	5

Welsh Beef & Lamb Mid Wales Youth League

Zone A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Llanfair United	3	3	0	0	13	3	9
Welshpool Twn	4	2	1	1	13	12	7
Bow Street	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
Llanfyllin Twn	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Machynlleth	4	0	0	4	6	15	0

Zone B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Llanidloes	6	6	0	0	45	3	18
Newtown	5	2	0	3	11	19	6
Caersw	4	2	0	2	10	19	6
Knighton Twn	5	0	0	5	6	31	0

J T Hughes Montgomeryshire Amateur Football

Honda Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Llanfair Res	9	8	0	1	42	10	24
Meifod	10	8	0	2	28	10	24
Llanfyllin	6	4	0	2	15	21	12
Guilsfield Res	7	3	1	3	19	15	10
Llanymynech	8	3	1	4	15	17	10
Llanrhaeadr Res	10	3	1	6	15	27	10
Caersws Res	8	3	0	5	13	26	9
Morda Utd	5	2	2	1	9	2	8
Trefonen	8	2	1	5	14	17	7
Waterloo Res	7	1	2	4	11	21	5
Llanfechain	4	0	0	4	5	19	0

Mitsubishi Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ll'ffraid Village	9	6	2	1	28	10	20
Forden Utd	6	6	0	0	19	3	18
Newtown Rovers	8	5	1	2	37	12	16
Newtown Wdrs	8	5	0	3	21	16	15
Berriew Res	7	3	1	3	10	16	10
Welshpool Res	9	3	0	6	17	25	9
Kerry Res	9	2	2	5	17	2	8
Llangedwyn	9	2	1	6	17	29	7
Maesyrhandir	8	2	1	5	14	34	7
Waterloo Colts	7	2	0	5	12	22	6

Midland Men's Hockey League

1st Team Midlands 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcester	11	9	0	2	45	29	27
L'borough Town	11	7	3	1	31	18	24
Barton	11	6	3	2	47	35	21
Old Halesonians	11	7	0	4	27	20	21
Bridgnorth	11	5	3	3	26	26	18
Hampton-in-Ard	11	3	4	4	38	43	13
Burton	11	3	3	5	28	34	12
Sutton Coldfield	11	3	3	5	31	43	12
Edgbaston	10	2	4	4	25	26	10
Sikh U (Notts)	11	2	3	6	43	44	9
Cov'try & N War	11	2	2	7	25	33	8
Telford & Wrekin	10	1	2	7	27	42	5

Midlands 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwick	10	9	1	0	48	18	28
Warwick Uni	10	9	0	1	50	17	27
Finchfield	10	7	2	1	43	29	23
Stratford	10	4	4	2	33	26	16
Old Silhillians	10	4	2	4	39	39	14
Chesterfield	10	4	1	5	33	34	13
Coalville	10	3	1	6	28	29	10
Leicester	10	3	0	7	23	34	9
Shrewsbury	10	2	2	6	24	32	8
Melton	10	2	1	7	21	35	7
South Nott'ham	10	1	0	9	16	65	3

West Midlands Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Streetly	11	8	1	2	41	20	25
Sikh U (Cov'try)	11	8	0	3	47	31	24
Market Drayton	11	7	2	2	40	23	23
Bloxwich	11	7	1	3	30	25	22
A'ridge & W'sall	11	6	1	4	29	22	19
Wednesbury	11	6	0	5	36	24	18
Bromsgrove	11	5	2	4	39	38	17
Solihull B'field	11	5	0	6	30	34	15
Ludlow	11	5	0	6	28	37	15
Kings Heath Pic	11	2	1	8	20	44	7
Old Wulfrunians	11	1	2	8	10	29	5
Wolverhampton	11	1	0	10	17	40	3

West Midlands 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stafford	10	8	1	1	62	19	25
Redditch	10	8	1	1	37	14	25
Leamington	10	8	0	2	43	21	24
West Bromwich	10	7	0	3	38	16	21
Oswestry	10	5	1	4	42	30	16
Evesham	10	5	0	5	28	31	12*
Pershore	10	3	2	5	30	36	11
Newtown	10	3	2	5	18	45	8*
Droitwich Spa	10	2	0	8	23	41	6
Barlaston	10	1	2	7	14	48	2*
Yardley	10	0	1	9	15	49	1

A record number of 926 finished this year's Telford 10km race, the 32nd running of the event. Competitors from across Shropshire and further afield braved the rain to take part in Telford Town Park. The elite athletes are pictured at the start of the race.

2nd Team League West Midlands Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Harborne	10	8	1	1	45	15	25
Worcester	10	8	1	1	33	14	25
Stourport	10	8	0	2	32	21	24
Edgbaston	10	4	2	4	26	26	14
Bournville	10	4	1	5	24	16	13
Warwick	10	4	1	5	27	26	13
Hampton-in-Ard	10	4	1	5	25	32	13
Stratford	10	4	0	6	21	31	12
North Stafford	10	2	2	6	14	25	8
Shrewsbury	10	2	1	7	14	36	7
Stafford	10	2	0	8	22	41	6

West Midlands 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Telford & Wrekin	10	8	1	1	45	15	25
Bridgnorth	10	8	1	1	42	14	25
Stone	10	7	0	3	38	26	19*
Bloxwich	10	6	1	3	34	23	19
Old Halesonians	10	5	1	4	30	17	16
Old Silhillians	10	4	3	3	24	17	15
Finchfield	10	4	0	6	24	26	12
A'ridge & W'sall	10	3	1	6	18	24	10
Market Drayton	10	3	0	7	10	28	9
Solihull B'field	10	3	0	7	12	36	9
Wolverhampton	10	0	0	10	7	58	0

West Midlands 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
West Bromwich	10	8	0	2	52	12	24
Redditch	10	8	0	2	33	17	24
Old Wulfrunians	10	7	1	2	44	12	22
Streetly	10	7	1	2	36	16	22
Bromsgrove	10	6	1	3	38	22	19
Wednesbury	10	4	1	5	20	29	13
Droitwich Spa	10	3	2	5	14	26	11
Ludlow	10	3	1	6	15	42	10
Kings Heath Pic	10	2	2	6	13	35	8
Pershore	10	1	2	7	13	42	2*
Evesham	10	0	1	9	4	29	-8*

3rd Team League West Midlands Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shrewsbury	10	10	0	0	48	16	30
Bridgnorth	10	7	2	1	36	9	23
Stratford	11	7	1	3	42	26	22
Old Halesonians	11	7	1	3	36	24	22
Wednesbury	11	7	0	4	39	33	21
Hampton-in-Ard	10	5	2	3	32	24	17
Telford & Wrekin	10	5	0	5	13	28	15
North Stafford	10	4	0	6	18	23	12
Stafford	11	3	0	8	18	32	9
A'ridge & W'sall	10	2	0	8	15	29	6
Bromsgrove	11	1	1	9	16	41	4
Bloxwich	11	1	1	9	5	33	4

West Midlands 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Finchfield	10	8	2	0	57	7	26
West Bromwich	10	7	2	1	43	11	23
Stone	9	6	1	2	32	17	19
Old Wulfrunians	10	5	3	2	26	18	18
Redditch	10	5	1	4	16	22	16
Market Drayton	10	3	1	6	13	33	10
Streetly	10	3	1	6	15	22	7*
Leamington	9	2	1	6	13	26	7
Solihull B'field	10	3	1	6	13	34	7*
Wolverhampton	10	2	1	7	13	42	4*
Droitwich Spa	10	3	0	7	14	23	-6*

Central League North West 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bridgnorth IV	9	7	1	1	24	12	22
Shrewsbury IV	9	7	1	1	23	12	22
Finchfield IV	8	5	0	3	30	19	15
Old W'frunians IV	9	5	0	4	20	15	15
Cannock VII	8	4	1	3	21	19	13
North Stafford IV	9	4	0	5	19	23	12
T'ford & Wrek IV	9	2	4	3	17	18	10
Bridgnorth V	9	3	1	5	11	14	10
Stafford IV	9	2	0	7	9	25	6
Sutton C'field VII	9	0	2	7	8	25	2

North West 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lichfield V	8	8	0	0	53	6	24
Wednesbury IV	8	6	0	2	33	13	18
Leek VI	7	5	0	2	14	14	15
West Brom IV	8	4	0	4	27	19	12
Lichfield VI	8	4	0	4	28	21	12
Stone IV	8	4	0	4	24	36	12
Old W'frunians V	8	2	0	6	13	27	6
Sutton C'field IX	8	2	0	6	4	25	6
Stafford V	7	0	0	7	4	39	0

Elcock Reisen Broseley Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
3 Lions	9	6	3	36	27	54
Old Boys	9	6	3	33	30	51
Albion B	9	5	4	34	29	49
Albion A	9	5	4	31	32	46
Down/Outs	9	4	5	32	31	44
Lion A	9	3	6	30	33	39
Pressies	9	3	6	30	33	39
Lion B	9	4	5	26	37	38

Arthur Hawkins Newport District Domino League

	P	W	T	P
Newport Bowling Club A	13	9	47	65
Forton Cricket Club B	12	7	48	62
Lamb	13	6	48	60
Swan A	11	8	44	60
Forton Cricket Club A	13	7	45	59
Wheatsheaf Wasps	12	7	44	58
Lion	13	5	42	52
Horseshoes	13	4	41	49
Childs Ercall Club	11	4	36	44
Newport Bowling Club B	11	4	32	40

Wheatland Indoor Cricket League

Division One

	P	W	T	L	P
Grasshoppers A	6	6	0	0	36
Cound A	6	4	0	2	24
Shelton	6	3	0	3	18
Willey	6	2	0	4	12
Condover	6	2	0	4	12
Cae Glas	6	1	0	5	6

Division Two

	P	W	T	L	P
Beacon	5	4	0	1	24
Church Stretton	6	3	0	3	18
Alberbury	6	3	0	3	18
Frankton	5	3	0	2	18
Cound B	6	2	0	4	12
Grasshoppers B	4	1	0	3	6

Shrewsbury & District Snooker League

Division One

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Reman Services A	8	7	1	30	10	30
Harlescott A	8	7	1	29	11	30
Stanton A	9	7	2	27	18	29
Reman Services B	8	6	2	26	11	27
Unison D	8	5	3	21	19	22
Beaconsfield B	8	3	5	20	20	20
Reman Services D	8	4	4	18	23	18
Harlescott B	8	1	7	14	26	14
Meole Brace F	8	2	6	14	26	12
Meole Brace A	9	1	8	14	31	12
Wem USC	8	2	6	11	29	11

Division Two

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Reman C	8	5	3	27	13	27
Harlescott D	8	7	1	26	14	27
Meole D	8	7	1	27	13	25
Bagley B	8	6	2	26	14	25
Unison E	8	4	4	23	17	23
Preston Brockhurst A	8	5	3	19	17	19
Bagley C	9	5	4	20	25	19
Reman H	9	1	8	15	30	15
Bagley A	8	2	6	16	24	15
Reman G	8	2	6	14	26	14
Old Shrewsbury A	8	1	7	13	27	12

Division Three

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Unison C	8	7	1	25	15	25
Meole Brace G	7	6	1	27	8	25
Wem Utd B	7	5	2	24	11	24
Church Stretton A	7	4	3	22	13	22
Wem Conservative A	7	3	4	21	14	21
Meole Brace B	7	3	4	17	18	15
Beaconsfield C	7	4	3	13	22	13
Reman Services F	7	3	4	12	23	12
Meole Brace E	9	1	8	14	31	12
Reman Services E	8	1	7	10	30	10

Darwin Glass & Glazing Shrewsbury & District Darts League

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Masonic A	13	11	2	0	73	31	24
Beaon B	13	10	1	2	66	38	21
Rock C	13	8	4	1	67	37	20
Heathgates A	13	9	0	4	57	47	18
Crown A/F A	13	6	4	3	60	44	16
Beacon A	13	5	5	3	57	47	15
Belvidere A	13	6	2	5	59	45	14
Telegraph B	13	4	5	4	51	53	13
W'sheaf F/W A	13	2	6	5	48	56	10
Comp Dith FC	13	1	5	7	45	59	7
Coach	13	1	5	7	42	62	7
BITB A	13	2	3	8	36	68	7
AIH G	13	1	4	8	34	70	6
Beeches	13	1	2	10	33	71	4

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Eagles (cress)	13	9	2	2	61	43	20
Admiral Duncan	13	7	3	3	60	44	17
Charles Darwin	12	6	5	1	56	40	17
Comp Dith B	12	7	2	3	53	43	16
ROak B (rock)	13	6	3	4	57	47	15
Masonic B	13	6	3	4	51	53	15
7 Stars	13	4	5	4	54	50	13
Onlsow	13	5	3	5	54	52	13
Crown A/F B	13	5	1	7	52	52	11
Comp Dith A	13	3	5	5	51	53	11
Grove	13	4	3	6	46	58	11
POW	13	3	3	7	47	57	9
Bull Cas F'gate	13	3	1	9	42	62	7
Red Lion B/H'th	13	1	3	9	36	68	5

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Telegraph C	11	8	2	1	54	34	18
Red Barn	11	8	1	2	56	32	17
Inn on the Green	11	7	3	1	52	36	17
Belvidere B	11	6	1	4	51	37	13
Woodman A	11	5	3	3	46	42	13
Woodman B	10	3	3	4	41	39	9
Coracle A	11	3	3	5	40	48	9
Rock A	11	4	0	7	40	48	8
Steam Wagon	10	3	2	5	36	44	8
Comp Dith C	11	1	5	5	37	51	7
Bagley Club	11	1	4	6	35	53	6
Comp B/Hill	11	2	1	8	32	56	5

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Monkmoor	13	11	2	0	72	32	24
BVT A	13	7	4	2	59	45	18
Brooklands	13	8	2	3	54	50	18
X Foxes	13	7	3	3	63	41	17
HSC C	13	7	3	3	58	46	17
Coracle B	13	6	2	5	57	47	14
Salopian Bar	13	6	2	5	48	56	14
Dog in Lane A	13	5	3	5	52	52	13
Hare & Hounds	13	3	5	5	51	53	11
Harry Hotspur	13	3	5	5	47	57	11
Boars Head	13	3	3	7	47	57	9
Bell X Houses	13	1	4	8	44	60	6
Cressage Club	13	2	2	9	40	64	6
Brick A/F	13	1	2	10	36	68	4

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
New Inn (Had'll)	13	10	3	0	72	32	23
Reabrook SC	13	8	4	1	65	39	20
Crown & S'pter	13	8	2	3	63	41	18
Hop & Friar	13	7	3	3	60	44	17
Plough Ponts	13	7	2	4	58	46	16
BITB B	13	5	3	5	52	52	13
Telegraph A	13	5	3	5	51	53	13
HSC A	13	6	1	6	46	58	13
HSC B	13	3	6	4	49	55	12
AMF Bowling	13	3	4	6	46	56	10
Condover Club	13	0	7	6	44	60	7
Telepost	13	2	3	8	41	63	7
Dog in Lane B	13	0	7	6	41	63	7
Bird in Hand	13	2	2	9	40	64	6

Division 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Comp Ladies	12	10	0	2	68	28	20
BVT B	12	8	3	1	56	40	19
Corbett Arms	12	9	0	3	67	29	18
Dolphin	12	7	4	1	61	35	18
Heathgates 40S	12	7	3	2	63	33	17
Crown C/Ham A	12	6	0	6	45	51	12
Masonic C	12	6	0	6	45	51	12
Crown C/Ham B	12	5	1	6	46	50	11
W'sheaf F/W B	12	4	2	6	39	57	10
Saddlers	12	3	1	8	44	52	7
Brick Cop	11	2	2	7	35	53	6
Wingfield Arms	12	2	0	10	36	60	4
Britannia	11	0	0	11	11	77	0

Wrekin Shortmat Bowls

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ketley Bank B	8	6	0	2	126	49	12
N'port C Green B	6	5	0	1	80	37	10
N'port C Green C	7	4	0	3	74	63	8
Telford B	6	4	0	2	56	75	8
Madeley Court B	7	3	0	4	79	61	6
N'port C Green A	6	3	0	3	67	65	6
Broseley Vic A	8	2	0	6	58	120	4
St. Georges A	8	1	0	7	58	128	2

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ketley Bank D	8	6	0	2	100	67	12
St. Georges C	8	6	0	2	102	72	12
Broseley Vic B	8	6	0	2	93	69	12
Shrewsbury D	8	4	0	4	89	84	8
Ketley Bank C	7	3	0	4	53	76	6
Dawley D	7	2	0	5	68	73	4
N'port C Green D	6	2	0	4	51	76	4
Ketley Bank E	8	1	0	7	56	95	2

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
N'port C Green E	7	6	0	1	101	56	12
Madeley Court C	8	5	0	3	147	55	10
N'port S'mat BCA	7	4	1	2	81	58	9
Dawley C	6	4	0	2	78	52	8
Randlay A	8	4	0	4	73	75	8
Sutton Hill D	7	3	1	3	62	75	7
Dawley E	8	3	0	5	73	117	6
Telford A	7	2	0	5	55	100	4
Sutton Hill C	8	1	0	7	58	139	2

Telford Snooker League

Heath Hill Building & Roofing Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Shifnal B	12	11	1	47	13
Dawley A	12	9	3	43	17
Hadley A	12	9	3	42	18
Maddocks A	12	10	2	40	20
Shifnal E	12	7	5	35	25
Broseley A	12	6	6	33	27
Eden A	12	6	6	31	29
Hadley B	12	5	7	28	32
Bayley E	12	6	6	27	33
Bayley B	12	5	7	24	36
Maddocks E	12	4	8	22	38
Maddocks C	12	3	9	21	39
Newport B	12	1	11	15	45
Maddocks D	12	2	10	12	48

Roden Scaffold Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Eden G	11	10	1	41	14
Bayley D	11	9	2	36	19
Shifnal F	11	7	4	35	20
Eden Elite	11	8	3	34	21
Dawley B	11	8	3	32	23
Anstice B (Dawley)	11	6	5	31	24
Bayley Cue	11	5	6	30	25
2nd Club A	11	6	5	27	28
Maddocks F	11	4	7	26	29
Allscott	12	4	8	23	37
Shifnal D	11	4	7	22	33
Bayley Z	11	1	10	14	41
Bayley Lads	11	0	11	9	46

Shrewsbury Invitational Domino League

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Rock & Fountain	14	9	2	3	62	50	21
Telepost	14	7	3	4	65	47	18
Dog & Pheasant	14	7	4	3	63	49	17
Bird in Hand	14	6	3	5	61	51	17
telegraph	14	6	4	4	59	53	16
Cross Foxes	14	6	4	4	58	54	16
FCC	14	6	5	3	57	55	15
HSC	13	5	3	5	50	54	15
Compasses	14	4	5	5	56	56	13
Postal	13	4	4	5	51	53	13
Masonic	14	4	6	4	58	54	12
BVT	14	4	6	4	53	59	12
POW	14	4	7	3	54	58	11
Anchor	14	5	9	0	50	62	10
Heathgates	14	3	8	3	45	67	9
Albion	14	2	9	3	46	64	7

Ron's Gents Hairdressing Shrewsbury & District Domino League

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Boars Head	15	7	6	2	70	50	20
Frankwell CC	15	8	4	3	66	54	20
Crown A	15	7	5	3	67	53	19
Telepost	15	6	5	4	63	57	17
Reman	15	6	5	4	63	57	17
Unison	15	6	5	4	62	58	17
Telegraph CB	15	7	3	5	62	58	17
Woodman B	15	8	0	7	63	57	16
Brooklands A	15	6	4	5	59	61	16
Belvidere A	14	7	2	5	59	53	16
Cross Foxes B	15	5	4	6	57	63	14
Compasses A	15	6	2	7	54	66	14
Horseshoes	15	4	5	6	58	62	13
Monkmoor	15	4	4	7	59	61	12
Rock A	14	4	4	6	55	57	12
Belle Vue Tavern	15	4	4	7	54	66	12
Compasses B	15	2	5	8	53	67	9
P of Wales A	15	3	1	11	48	72	7

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rock B	13	9	2	2	62	42	20
Royal Oak	13	6	4	3	59	45	16
Telegraph A	13	7	2	4	53	51	16
Telegraph B	13	5	5	3	55	49	15
Corbett B	12	5	3	4	48	48	13
Woodman A	13	4	4	5	57	47	12
Harry Hotspur	13	4	4	5	50	54	12
Rock C	10	5	2	3	41	39	12
Plough	12	3	5	4	49	47	11
Harlescott SC	13	5	1	7	45	59	11
Beeches	11	4	3	4	44	44	11
Red Lion	10	2	7	1	42	38	11
Cross Foxes A	13	4	2	7	42	62	10
Corbet Uff A	12	3	3	6	47	49	9
Bird	11	1	1	9	34	54	3

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Masonic B	13	7	4	2	57	47	18
Horseshoes A	14	6	5	3	60	52	17
Ad Duncan	13	6	4	3	58	46	16
Cressage	13	7	2	4	55	49	16
Bagley	13	6	3	4	55	49	15
Masonic A	13	6	2	5	54	50	14
Beeches B	13	5	4	4	53	51	14
Bull in Barn A	13	4	5	4	54	50	13
Heathgates B	13	3	7	3	52	52	13
Red Lion	13	3	5	5	50	54	11
Rock D	13	4	3	6	49	55	11
Belvidere	12	3	4	5	45	51	10
Bull in Barn B	13	2	5	6	45	59	9
Heathgates A	12	4	1	7	43	53	9
Red Castle	13	2	4	7	46	58	8

Division Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Coach	13	8	3	2	61	43	19
Anchor HG	12	8	2	2	61	35	18
Crown B	10	5	4	1	48	32	14
Seven Stars	11	7	0	4	47	41	14
Prince B	11	5	3	3	47	41	13
Inn on the Green	11	5	2	4	44	44	12
Dolphin	11	4	3	4	44	44	11
Compasses BH	10	4	2	4	39	41	10
Wheatsheaf	10	3	3	4	39	41	9
Brooklands	11	3	2	6	42	46	8
Brick Copthorne	11	2	4	5	40	48	8
Dog & Pheasant	11	2	3	6	38	50	7
Brittania	11	1	5	5	34	54	7
Bulls Head	11	0	4	7	32	56	4

Darwin Glass & Glazing Wem & District Darts League

	P	W	L	F	A	+-	P
Hole In The Wall	8	7	1	52	20	32	14
Castle Hotel	9	7	2	52	29	23	14
Stanton Arms	9	6	3	55	26	29	12
Fox Inn	9	6	3	47	34	13	12
Dickin Arms	9	6	3	42	39	3	12
Prees Club	9	5	4	42	39	3	10
White Lion	9	3	6	34	47	-13	6
Wem Spts & Soc	9	2	7	35	46	-11	4
Wem Utd Serv	9	1	8	21	60	-39	2
Wem C'ket Club	8	1	7	16	56	-40	2

Darwin Glass & Glazing Wem & District Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	+-	P
Prees Club	9	8	1	51	30	21	16
Stanton Arms	9	7	2	45	36	9	14
Wem C'ket Club	8	6	2	43	29	14	12
Fox Inn	9	6	3	44	37	7	12
White Lion	9	4	5	39	42	-3	8
Hole in the Wall	8	4	4	34	38	-4	8
Dickin Arms	9	3	6	37	44	-7	6
Wem Spts & Soc	9	3	6	37	44	-7	6
Wem Utd Serv	9	2	7	37	44	-7	4
Castle Hotel	9	1	8	29	52	-23	2

Clive & District Billiard League

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Marchamley	11	4	1	6	25	19	25
Monty's	11	4	2	5	24	20	24
Preston	12	4	5	3	24	24	24
Wem Cons	11	5	4	2	23	21	23
Stanton	11	4	4	3	21	23	21
Harlescott	11	2	3	6	21	23	21
Clive	11	2	6	3	18	26	18

Banks's Newport Domino League

	P	W	F	A	P
Swan D	11	8	47	30	63
Bowling Club A	9	7	37	26	51
Malts	11	5	39	38	49
Swan AC	10	5	33	37	43
Kings Head	10	3	36	34	42
Swan B	11	5	32	45	42
Bowling Club B	9	4	32	31	40
Legion Bees	11	4	31	46	39

Bets.co.uk Newport Singles League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ed Keenan	8	6	2	0	14	2	14
Greg Heathcote	8	6	2	0	14	2	14
Ant Heathcote	8	6	1	1	13	3	13
Scott Smith	8	5	2	1	12	4	12
Charlie Hayward	8	5	2	1	10	4	12
Andy Lewis	7	5	1	1	11	3	11
Colin Pink	8	3	5	0	11	5	11
Greg Quinn	8	3	3	2	9	7	9
Ben Longstaff	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Mick Hughes	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Phil Prinold	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Russel Porter	7	2	4	1	8	6	8
Anthony Allen	7	2	3	2	7	7	7
Mike Jones	7	2	3	2	7	7	7
George Taylor	6	1	4	1	6	6	6
Luke Jones	7	1	4	2	6	8	6
Dave Bristow	7	1	3	3	5	9	5
Stu Morrey	8	1	2	5	4	12	4
Paul Lucas	7	0	4	3	4	10	4
Jack Jones	8	0	4	4	4	12	4
Alex Davidson	8	0	3	5	3	13	3
Adam Stone	7	0	2	5	2	12	2
Matt Bowering	7	0	2	5	2	12	2
Jason Lloyd	7	0	2	5	2	10	1

Marston's Newport & District Pool League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stag Mkt Drayton	8	8	0	0	39	9	16
N'port Legion A	8	7	0	1	39	9	14
Sutherland Arms	7	5	2	0	33	9	12
WWFC	7	6	0	1	29	13	12
King's Head A	8	4	2	2	28	20	10
H'suckle Hawks	8	3	2	3	26	22	8
H'suckle Harriers	7	3	2	2	23	19	8
Haberdashers	7	2	2	3	20	22	6
Junction B	8	1	4	3	19	29	6
Junction A	7	2	2	3	18	24	6
Wheatsheaf	8	2	2	4	18	30	6
Pheasant	7	2	1	4	17	25	5
Horns Gnosall	7	2	2	3	20	22	4*
Royal Navy Club	7	1	2	4	17	25	4
N'port Legion B	7	1	3	3	14	28	3*
King's Head B	8	0	2	6	12	36	2
Shakespeare	7	0	0	7	6	36	0

*Newport Legion B (Royal Vic Hotel) and Horns deducted two points for missing a fixture

Bridgnorth Dominoes

League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chelmarsh SC A	10	6	3	1	49	31	15
Fosters A	10	6	3	1	47	33	15
Malt Shovel B	10	5	3	2	44	36	13
Islanders	10	3	5	2	44	36	11
Golden Lion	10	4	3	3	40	40	11
Goldens	10	4	1	5	39	41	9
AFC A	10	3	3	4	37	43	9
Alveley S.C	10	2	2	6	33	47	6
Fosters B	10	3	0	7	33	47	6
Worfield CC	10	1	3	6	34	46	5

League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bowling Club	9	6	2	1	41	31	14
Malt Shovel A	8	5	3	0	39	25	13
Woodberry	9	4	2	3	38	34	10
Rugby Club	9	3	3	3	37	35	9
Royal Oak	9	2	5	2	36	36	9
Chelmarsh B	9	3	2	4	38	34	8
AFC B	9	3	1	5	33	39	7
Bylet	9	1	4	4	32	40	6
Duke Of York	9	1	2	6	26	46	4

Shrewsbury Netball League

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Lightning	10	9	1	0	303	150	47
Recycles 1	10	9	1	0	353	217	47
Caradoc	9	7	2	0	332	198	39
Zest	9	7	2	0	260	242	36
Divas	10	5	5	0	252	207	33
Wanderers	9	5	4	0	287	180	31
Newtown A	10	5	5	0	228	223	29
Oddshots	10	2	8	0	258	335	18
Chasers	9	2	7	0	183	314	11
Thunderbirds	9	1	8	0	139	274	8
Lions	9	0	9	0	108	363	2

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Recycles 2	10	9	0	1	314	184	48
Comets	9	8	1	0	276	179	41
Diesel	10	7	2	1	241	179	41
Smokin Aces	9	7	2	0	218	180	35
B52s	10	5	4	1	198	226	32
Sirens	10	3	7	0	233	263	24
Recycles 3	9	4	5	0	203	228	23
Drifters	9	2	7	0	200	233	20
Strays	9	2	6	1	142	167	18
Salopians	9	2	7	0	167	236	17
Scorpions	10	2	8	0	138	232	15

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Allsorts	10	8	1	1	259	192	45
Troopers	9	8	1	0	234	184	41
Beckbury	10	7	3	0	213	157	38
Severn Up	10	6	4	0	291	240	37
Strollers	9	5	4	0	231	179	32
Eclipse	9	5	3	1	212	201	32
Dolly Mixtures	9	4	5	0	175	188	25
Newtown Stars	9	4	5	0	185	199	22
Vixens	10	2	8	0	180	242	19
Robins	9	2	7	0	169	276	15
Pixies	10	0	10	0	148	239	10

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Fusion	7	7	0	0	224	127	35
Copthorne Crus	7	6	1	0	172	107	32
Eagles	7	4	3	0	141	107	25
RAF Shawbury	7	4	3	0	132	109	22
Sky Blues	7	3	4	0	164	149	19
Jokers	7	3	4	0	129	140	19
Phoenix	7	1	6	0	81	177	9
Volts	7	0	7	0	87	214	3

Telford Singles & Doubles Domino League

	P	F	A	P
Albion	15	75	60	30
Bulls Head B	15	71	64	28
Park Hotel	15	75	60	27
Horseshoes A	15	73	62	27
Wendy House	15	76	59	26
White Hart	15	70	65	24
White Horse FR	15	69	66	23
Railway B	15	68	67	23
Talbot	15	69	66	22
Bulls Head A	15	65	70	21
Horseshoes B	15	60	75	19
Railway A	15	63	72	18
Rec Club	15	59	76	16
White Horse WW	15	52	83	11

Corvedale Domino League Table

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Outsiders	12	10	2	0	64	32	20
Dragon	12	8	3	1	55	41	17
BurwayB	11	5	2	4	52	36	14
Swan	12	5	3	4	51	45	14
Longville	12	6	4	2	50	46	14
Insiders	12	4	4	4	49	47	12
Tally	12	5	6	1	42	54	11
Bantams	12	4	6	2	48	48	10
Stars	12	3	5	4	45	51	10
BurwayA	12	4	7	1	43	53	9
THS A	12	3	7	2	43	53	8
Sun	12	3	7	2	40	56	7
Boyne	11	2	6	3	34	54	7

Horsehay & Dawley Licensees Domino League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Queens Head	9	7	2	51	21	51
Bulls Head B	10	7	3	48	32	48
Madeley CC	9	7	2	44	28	44
Bulls Head A	10	5	5	42	38	42
White Horse A	10	4	6	37	43	37
White Horse B	9	4	5	34	38	34
Travellers Joy	10	4	6	32	48	32
Elizabethan	10	3	7	30	50	30
Forresters	9	2	7	26	46	26

Clive & District Billiards

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Marchamley	12	4	7	1	27	21	27
Monty's	12	4	5	3	25	23	25
Stanton	12	5	3	4	24	24	24
Wem Cons	12	5	2	5	24	24	24
Preston	12	4	3	5	24	24	24
Harlescott	12	3	6	3	24	24	24
Clive	12	2	4	6	20	28	20

Oswestry Dominoes

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ye Olde V Ostry	11	8	2	1	46	20	18
Lion Llffraid	13	7	3	3	48	30	17
B Lion Ostry A	11	5	5	1	39	27	15
Penybont Inn	12	6	3	3	39	33	15
Stn LLffraid	11	6	2	3	39	27	14
C Foxes Gwen	11	5	3	3	36	30	13
B Arms Knockin	11	4	3	4	35	31	11
Top W Ln Ostry	11	4	3	4	35	31	11
Hshoe Llodwel	12	5	1	6	35	37	11
W Ln Llynclys	11	3	5	3	32	34	11
Oak Oswestry	11	3	3	5	28	38	9
B H Maesbrook	12	3	2	7	28	44	8
B Lion Ostry B	11	1	4	6	26	40	6
Wstay Llansilin	12	0	1	11	14	58	1

Saints suffering for the missed chances

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

The New Saints 1 Aberystwyth Town 1

PACESETTERS The New Saints missed a chance to tighten their grip at the top of the Dafabet Welsh Premier with a draw against Aberystwyth Town at Park Hall.

Having swept aside the Seasiders 3-0 six days earlier in the Welsh Cup, the Saints looked set to complete a quickfire double after leading through Matty Williams' seventh-minute opener.

But missed chances proved costly as Chris Venables earned parity for the visitors when netting with a fine strike in the 72nd minute.

The defending champions remain unbeaten but saw their lead at the top trimmed to nine points.

Manager Craig Harrison admitted his side lacked their usual spark. "It did not happen for us, we did not show the same quality as we have done in the last three or four games," he said,

"It was not for lack of effort and trying – the lads gave everything as they always do – but as a group we were a bit sloppy and were not as fluent as we can be.

"But it's going to happen. We've got to be realistic as we can't expect to play well every week, even the best players in the world have off games.

"We had chances, but overall we did not do enough to win the game.

"But the key is that, although we did not play well, we did not lose. We're still unbeaten this season, and we're still in a fantastic position."

Williams gave the Saints the ideal start when tapping in an early rebound after Chris Seargeant's cross had been parried, but Aber keeper Mike Lewis was in top form for the rest of the night to keep his side in the hunt.

Advantage

The Saints almost doubled their advantage moments later when an inviting pass from Ryan Edwards released Jamie Mullan but his shot was deflected wide.

Aber, however, were a different proposition than their limp performance the week before, and posed more problems as they pressed higher up the pitch. And the Saints were stunned with 18 minutes left as the prolific Venables earned parity with a well-struck half-volley.

TNS were back on the attack as they looked for a winner, Williams forcing Lewis into a good save low down.

Mike Wilde headed wide from close range with his first touch and fellow sub Greg Draper also failed to find a way through late on as the encounter finished all square.

Goalscorer Matty Williams admitted it was a frustrating night, but was not too downcast as the Saints continue to sit pretty at the top of the table.

"It's disappointing as we look to win every game, particularly at home, but it's not all doom and gloom as we're still unbeaten," he said.

"We had a fantastic start, got an early goal, and looked like we would get a few more. We had a few chances, particularly in the first half, but we were not clinical or ruthless enough, and it was not to be.

"We'll dust ourselves down, and look to go again on Friday against Bala as we prepare for a busy Christmas."

MBi Llandudno, in second place, made the most of TNS's slip to close the gap to nine points on the leaders with a 4-2 win at Carmarthen Town.

Ridge fires four as TNS turn up the heat

EMILY RIDGE continues to lead the way in the West Midlands Women's Premier League goalscoring charts.

She netted four times as The New Saints ladies boosted their title challenge – and goal difference – with a crushing 12-0 romp against rock-bottom Wednesfield.

Victory saw TNS step up the pressure in the title chase by consolidating third spot,.

They now lie six points behind leaders Crusaders with three games in hand.

For the Saints, it was the first game in a month and Joe Thompson's side played some very attractive football, giving the visitors no chance.

Top scorer Ridge now has 13 goals for the season, while Laura Morris weighed in with a hat-trick.

Sophie Edwards added two more to take her season's tally to five, while Chloe Wilkinson notched her third of the season.

Meanwhile, Michelle Pasco and Louisa Anderson got their first goals of the campaign, with Anderson's strike also being her first for the Shropshire champions.

The Saints look to keep up the good work when they take on Wrockwardine Wood Ladies at Park Hall Stadium on Sunday (2pm).

Elsewhere, TNS ladies under-16s were comfortable 4-0 winners against Withymoor Girls under-16s thanks to goals from Charlotte Budd (2), Jayne Owen and Jodie Cardwell.

And in another outing for the under-16s, Beth Cooke scored twice as they ran out 3-0 winners against Penn United Girls, Budd also on target.

Spanish highs as Celia stars on the board

IT'S not often a chess player demonstrates such skill that those watching break out into applause, but 14-year-old Spanish exchange student Celia Gillis left onlookers spellbound in a thrilling finish to her last ever appearance for Shrewsbury.

With just seconds left on her clock and in a tricky endgame, Celia played every move instantly and with great accuracy to beat Keith Tabner. As it was the last game to finish and everything depended on it in an epic encounter between Shrewsbury B and county town rivals Telepost B, a small crowd gathered to watch, and everyone clapped in admiration at what they witnessed.

■ Shropshire Chess Congress is still weeks away but players planning to take part have just a few days left to make an important decision - whether to pay now, or later.

December 21 is the deadline for entries after which there is a £8 "fine" for late entry, which would raise the adult fee in the Open section from £35 to a whopping £43.

Golf returns from your local club

ARSCOTT

Men's Xmas Fayre Mystery Pairs (Sun 6th December): P Owen & S Adams 73pts; R Clarke & R Jones 72pts.

HAWKSTONE PARK

Men's November Medal Division 1: W Hollinshead 81–13=68; K MacGillivary 81–12=69; C Payne 96-27=69.

Seniors' Stableford Division 1: R Gleave 44pts off 13; A Ownes 43pts off 14; D Barnett 42pts off 10.

Division 2: P Hollins 42pts off 20; P Mellor 41pts off 21; R Toogood 41pts off 21.

HENLLE PARK

Christmas 4BBB Stableford : A Harris & J Harris 42pts; G Peate & R Jones 37pts (CB); D Hughes & J Williams 37pts.

OSWESTRY

Division 1: J M Jones 36; S Hughes 35; M Jones 34 (c/b); J Lawes 34; G Huggett 33; J Poole 32 (c/b).

Division 2: D Kershaw 37; R Pickles 36 (c/b); N Kershaw 36 (c/b); J Griffiths 36; D Trow 34; F Mottram 33 (c/b).

Division 3: J Watkiss 37; R Preece 35 (c/b); A Gilbert 35; P Jennings 34; J Edmondson 33; A Pickles 32.

Best Gross: J M Jones 75.

FC Oswestry get in party mood

FC Oswestry players and officials celebrate a successful first half of the season by joining the club's main sponsor Stonehouse Brewery for a Christmas drink after their 4-2 victory over Bridgnorth Town. In the front is Town boss Nick Maguire (red jumper) with Stonehouse owner Shane Parr (right).

CHRIS Bishop fired yet another hat-trick as FC Oswestry Town remain neck and neck at the top of the Mercian Regional League premier division after overcoming Bridgnorth reserves 4-2 at Park Hall.

They still trail Allscott on goal difference, after the leaders put nine goals past Shifnal United 97, but are looking in good shape to challenge in the second half of the season. The top two sides are now 13 points clear of third placed Childs Ercall.

Town were looking to keep up their title charge before the Christmas break against an unpredictable Bridgnorth side, but fell behind in the third minute when the visitors opened the scoring with the wind blowing and the rain beating down on the Park Hall stadium.

The home side took 15 minutes to settle and had a chance to draw level when Bishop was put clean through but the keeper stood up well to foil the in-form striker.

Soon after Town were not to be denied when awarded a free kick 25 yards from goal, and this time Bishop found the net when the ball was played short and his strike took a slight deflection to wrong foot the keeper.

Town were now in full flow with midfielders Tommy Lewis and Captain Olly Jones pulling all the strings, and on the half hour came the goal of the game when, after some 25 passes, a fine delivery from the left by Joe Evans was fired home by Olly Jones,

Nick Maguire's men then made it three with that man Bishop firing in from 15 yards to give themselves some breathing space at the interval.

After the break, the visitors hit back early to close the gap to just the one goal, but Town were on top and captain Jones was driving the team forward.

The Oswestry side had their chances, but could not beat the Bridgnorth keeper who was in top form with some fine saves.

However, with just 10 minutes remaining, the three points were secured when Guy Guilford found Bishop in the middle of the box, and the marksman fired home from five yards to complete yet another hat-trick to keep Town breathing down the necks of the leaders.

The title chasers now take a festive break, with their next outing a crucial top-of-the-table showdown away at Allscott on January 9, 2016 (2pm).

Ellesmere hit road as clubhouse gets rebuilt

ELLESMERE RANGERS face a run of away matches in the West Midlands League premier division owing to major ground improvements taking place at their Beech Grove home, writes STUART DUNN.

After having to bide their time for work to begin, building has now started on an exciting project.

An impressive new clubhouse will be constructed while an extension will house new changing rooms plus a referee's room and medical room.

Club officials successfully applied for a number of grants as well as embarking on a major fundraising drive of their own to make their dreams of improving the facilities a reality.

The old clubhouse has now been flattened with work under way to build a replacement.

The knock-on effect is a disruption to Ellesmere's current fixture list which has come on top of a string of postponements owing to waterlogged pitches.

The outcome is that Richard Brown's men have not played since a 3-0 defeat at Malvern Town on November 14.

Disruptions

They were hoping to return to action on Wednesday (December 16) at Bilston Town Community with a scheduled trip to Gornal Athletic the following weekend.

Alan Davies, Ellesmere's director of football, said: "It's not ideal for our season, the disruptions, but it's one of those things you have to go with as you only get one chance to do something like this.

"It's a big job, all the building work, and we had to get started as soon as we could."

Ellesmere hope the new changing rooms will be ready at some stage during January to enable football to return to Beech Grove.

While construction of the clubhouse continues, post-match hospitality is planned to take place at the Comrades Club in Ellesmere.

The whole building project is expected to last between four and five months.

But once completed it will give Ellesmere excellent facilities to serve the club for many years ahead.

Morda ready to get the mower out

AFTER rain again resulted in another postponement, Morda United will be hoping to beat the elements for Saturday's scheduled home fixture with Llanrhaeadr reserves in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one (2pm).

The recent wet but relatively warm weather has resulted in the grass growing rather long on the Weston Road pitch, which club officials are looking to address before this weekend's action.

Meanwhile, the Morda squad has remained active with a a couple of well-attended and enjoyable training sessions at The Venue at Park Hall.

Five-star Llan lead way as weather wins

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

FIVE-STAR Llanrhaeadr are the new leaders of the Spar Mid Wales League division one after notching a thrilling 5-4 victory at rain-lashed Hay St Mary's.

Being the only league game to beat the deluge, Llan took advantage to secure a valuable three points thanks to a hat-trick from Marc Griffiths and a brace by Iwan Matthews.

Victory lifted the villagers one point clear at the summit from previous leaders Carno, but Penrhyncoch - whose clash at Llandrindod Wells was among the casualties of the weather - remain the main threat two points behind in third spot, and with four games in hand on the new leaders.

Playing with a strong wind at their backs in the first half, Llan were soon on their way when Matthews found Endaf Owens whose cross was tucked away by Griffiths for a fourth minute opener.

Then eight minutes later, it was 2-0 as Tom Evans fed Griffiths whose neat chip over the keeper found the net via the post.

Matthews then added a third on the half hour when beating the keeper after being released by right back Jack Brayne, but Hay pulled one back through Brendan Hackett to reduce the arrears to 3-1 at the interval.

With the elements in their favour in the second period, Hay were soon on the attack as two goals from Steve Morgan on 49 and 54 minutes had them 3-3, and all to play for.

But Matthews put Llan back in front with his second goal of the game on 62 minutes when put through to score, before Griffiths made it five after completing his hat-trick.

Hay continued to battle hard, and got a fourth goal three minutes into injury time through Stuart Davies, but the visitors had done enough to prevail in a gruelling affair.

The rest of the first division was wiped out with fourth placed Welshpool (home to Llanidloes Town) and Waterloo (away at Carno) among the victims of the wet weather.

Dyffryn Banw's trip to in-form Aberystwyth University in division two was also a casualty of the weather, as was Berriew's clash at Borth United in the ER Jenkins Cup quarter-final.

One game did survive in the cup, with Churchstoke bowing out 4-3 at Radnor Valley while Abermule had a walkover against Bont.

■ Applications are now being invited from the feeder league clubs who may wish to join the Spar League division two for next season.

Applications have to be submitted to the Spar League secretary Phil Woosnam by Thursday, December 31 at the latest accompanied by a cheque for £50. This amount will be refunded if the clubs join the League.

All clubs who apply will have their ground inspected during January or February and informed of any necessary work to be done to meet the said criteria. This work will need to be completed by April, 30 2016, at the latest. Applications to be made to: P Woosnam, Mafeking, Triangle Cwmdauddwr, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5AR

Saints home in after three weeks away

IT proved a blank weekend for St Martins whose clash at Wednesfield in the West Midlands League division one fell victim to the wet weather.

The Saints remain in fifth spot, but will be keen to get back on the pitch at home to Bustleholme on Saturday having not played for three weeks.

They will be hopeful of keeping the pressure on the leaders when they take on their visitors who will be reeling from last weekend's 10-0 drubbing at division one leaders AFC Ludlow.

Ex-TNS man back in charge at Conwy

FORMER The New Saints stalwart Tommy Holmes has taken his first step into management as assistant to newly-appointed Conwy Borough manager Jason Aldcroft.

Holmes joins the Tangerines, who play in the Cymru Alliance, from Buckley Town, where he has been playing this season.

Holmes, 35, was a regular in the TNS back line after arriving from Tranmere Rovers in 2000/1 and made 313 (+18) league appearances, scoring 11 goals.

Voted Welsh Premier player of the month in February 2009, Holmes also made 19 (1) European appearances for the Saints.

After being released in the 2011 close season he signed a two-year deal with Airbus UK Broughton and, after a season and a half with the Wingmakers, was released by mutual consent in January 2013. He then signed for Prestatyn Town, where he remained until the summer of 2014.

"Tommy Holmes is a great addition as a player and assistant manager," said Aldcroft. "He has vast experience and playing knowledge after being at Tranmere Rovers and then 12 years spent at TNS.

"Tosh is also great lad to have around and brightens up the place with his personality and he also has many contacts within the game."

Meanwhile, Carl Darlington is relishing his return to The New Saints as first team coach, which he will carry out alongside his full time role as head of coach education at the Welsh Football Trust.

Darlington left TNS a year ago to join Wrexham as first team coach under then manager Kevin Wilkin, but left in May after Gary Mills arrived as manager.

"When the opportunity became available to assist Craig (Harrison) and Scotty (Scott Ruscoe) I jumped at the chance", he said.

"I'm really looking forward to joining up again with the club's management staff and players."

Brothers star in the pool for Sharks

BROTHERS Carwyn and Denial Owen got their teeth into more success as Welshpool Sharks made their mark at the Swim Wales North Sub Regional Championships in Llandudno.

The duo produced excellent swims in the 1,500m freestyle to lower previous best times, with Denial leading the way to a gold medal in his 11 years age group.

The Sharks then made a splash with six personal best times in the boys 100m freestyle with Morgan Matthews taking bronze (11 years) and Dyfrig Jones bagging silver in the 10 year age group.

There were more best times in the 200m breaststroke where the brothers impressed again with Carwyn taking silver in the boys 13 years and Denial weighing in with a bronze in the 11 years, while Iwan Ellis (15 years) added a silver.

Dyfrig Jones then took bronze in the 200m back with Iwan adding his second silver of the day in the 200m Individual Medley.

Carwyn wrapped things up for the boys on the first day with his second silver in the 100m breaststroke.

The girls also excelled as Kate Pugh (13 years) put in a terrific effort to win gold in the 400m and the following day went on to take a silver in the 800m freestyle.

Megan Ellis, Cari Jones, Elain Owen and Kira Jones all produced strong performances and between them shared a total of 18 personal best times.

The second day's swimming saw two more medals with Dyfrig Jones winning gold in the 100m butterfly and Denial a bronze in the 400IM.

Knight Lords it as he banks an award

SPORT by Lewis Cox

OSWESTRY Team Tennis coach Clive Knight joined household names from the world of sport at a reception in the House of Lords.

The event saw Knight recognised as a Community Champion by Barclays Spaces for Sports and the Football Foundation for his services to sport in Oswestry.

As a Community Champion, he is representing the hundreds of people, over half of whom are volunteers, who make a particularly outstanding contribution to their local Barclays Spaces for Sports facility.

Knight's primary role at Oswestry Team Tennis is as a coach, a position he has held since the club's inception in 2006.

He coaches boys, girls, men and women of various ages and he has even seen a number of his younger protégés go on to have careers in professional tennis, either as players or coaches.

He has also taken on a variety of extra responsibilities during his time at the club including the role of trustee, treasurer and head of funding applications.

The club has the only junior tennis club in Shropshire, which regularly sees more than 200 children use the facility every weekend, and also delivers tennis session at Derwen College, a local school for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Knight said: "On behalf of Oswestry Team Tennis, it is a great honour to have been recognised in this way.

Success

"The club started in 2006 in Cae Glas Park with a new facility and only a handful of youngsters. Now we have over 200 young people, aged five upwards, using the site on a weekly basis and enjoying much success.

"The club has been able to grow in stature over the years to be self-financing thanks to its skilled and enthusiastic volunteer and coaching workforce.

"Without Barclays Spaces for Sport and the Football Foundation's financial support and guidance, it would not have been possible for the club to become the go to place in Oswestry for junior tennis, so our sincere thanks go to them for supporting us from the outset."

Barclays Spaces for Sports is the UK's largest ever sports-based corporate social responsibility programme.

Launched in 2004 it saw international bank Barclays partner with the Football Foundation to develop 204 multi-sports sites in disadvantaged communities right across the country.

The investment into the Barclays Spaces for Sports facilities programme in the UK was £67m. The sites built as a result play host to more than 30 different kinds of sport and are used by over 88,000 people every week with participation, not sporting excellence, the key ethos.

The Foundation's grant managers have worked with every site to produce a Sustainability Plan. This incorporates a business plan to ensure sufficient revenue to run the site, without having to rely on local authority or any other subsidy and also a sports development plan to ensure the facility is used to its maximum.

Now, more than 75 per cent of the facilities are long-term financially sustainable.

Paulette Cohen, director, Global Programmes at Barclays, said: "Since 2004 Barclays Spaces for Sports has been engaging young people in some of the most disadvantaged parts of the country and it is wonderful that Clive, just one of the hundreds of people who help run our facilities, is being recognised for their hard work."

Paul Thorogood, chief executive of The Football Foundation, added: "The Football Foundation has delivered the Barclays Spaces for Sport scheme for the last 11 years. During this time, the scheme has developed into the blueprint for how a commercial organisation should engage with a charity to deliver corporate social responsibility programmes.

"However, the programme would not work without the volunteers who manage and run the facilities that have been funded.

"Clive is the embodiment of the many volunteers who work at Barclays Spaces for Sports sites, ensuring that their communities have access to quality sports facilities, and is thoroughly deserving of the accolade of Community Champion."

Clive Knight (back row far right) proudly stands alongside the other award winners at the House of Lords

Spanish highs as Celia stars on board

IT'S not often that a chess player demonstrates such skill that those watching break out into applause, but 14-year-old Spanish exchange student Celia Gillis left onlookers spellbound in a thrilling grandstand finish to her last ever appearance for Shrewsbury, **writes TOBY NEAL.**

With just seconds left on her clock and in a tricky endgame, Celia played every move instantly and with great accuracy to beat Keith Tabner. As it was the last game to finish and everything depended on it in an epic encounter between Shrewsbury B and county town rivals Telepost B, a small crowd gathered to watch, and everyone clapped in admiration at what they witnessed.

Celia's win secured both points for Shrewsbury, who now head Division Two. She is returning to Spain, and as a sort of thank you for all she has done for the team was given the honour in her last game of playing on top board - something that has raised some eyebrows as her grading is 139, which is 11 points lower than that of Daniel Lockett who was played on board two, although by common consent Celia's grading seriously underestimates her talents.

Ludlow A are now in second place and, with an influx of some very strong players, are looking good for the second half of the season.

■ Shropshire Chess Congress is still weeks away but players planning to take part have just a few days left to make an important decision - whether to pay now, or pay later.

December 21 is the deadline for entries after which there is a £8 "fine" for late entry, which would raise the adult fee in the Open section from an already eye-watering £35 to a whopping £43.

While the fees are a record for the competition, so is the first prize by some considerable margin, at £1,000, although the prospects of a local winner are virtually nil, as it is already the strongest field in the tournament's history, with three Grandmasters and two International Masters so far signed up to take part.

Results

Division Two - Telepost B 2, Shrewsbury B 3: K Tabner 0, C Gillis 1; P Crean 1, D Lockett 0; A Benjamin 0.5, M Smith 0.5; K Walker 0, I Ilesanmi 1; A Lewis 0.5, I Davies 0.5.

Ludlow A 4.5, Priorslee Lions B 0.5: L Davis 1, M Morrison 0; P Walker 1, G White 0; R Croot 1, G Viszokai 0; J Watson 1, M Reynolds 0; P Munday 0.5, T Gilmour 0.5.

Telford B 1, Newport B 4: R Szwajkun 0.5, D Griffiths 0.5; R Brown 0, A Mehmood 1; S Tennant 0, S Ross 1; W Peck 0.5, C Paul 0.5; S Szwajkun 0, G Yaroslaw 1.

Chesters sure late start can benefit him

SHROPSHIRE golf pro Ashley Chesters reckons a late start can help his career.

The Hawkstone Park star finally left the amateur ranks after the Walker Cup and is embarking on life in the paid ranks at the comparatively late age of 26. But the double European amateur champion, who tied for 12th in this year's Open, reckons the timing is just right.

"I just wasn't really ready a few years ago," he said. "A lot of people turn pro when they're younger and get lost in the pro game because there's so many different tiers.

"I've been really lucky in the amateur game – I've played in the Walker Cup, I've won the European amateur twice. I competed in the Open Championship twice.

"I'm a bit older now, but thanks to all those experiences along the way I'm more ready now than ever."

Chesters might have made the leap after his second European amateur triumph last year, but opted against it. "After I won the second time and qualified for the Open Championship again, I went to European Tour Q School, but my head wasn't really in it," he added.

"I had enjoyed the Open so much the first time and wanted to play again, so I wasn't sure if Q School was the right decision.

"Either way, I didn't play well, so after that was sorted there was only one option for me anyway: Play the Open again, play the Walker Cup and then go for it."

Chesters is one of only three amateurs to qualify for back to back Opens. The others? Eduardo Molinari – and Tiger Woods.

"Let's put it this way," he said. "Whenever the next guy does it and he gets asked the same question, I hope by then he thinks the same way about Ashley Chesters as he does about the other two!"

Ladies sign off for year in fine style

HOCKEY by John Bridgwater

BACK-TO-BACK wins made it a good end to the year for Oswestry Ladies who can go into their festive break in positive mood in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two.

After their 3-0 victory over Triton Ladies, they followed it up with a 2-1 success away to Brooklands Poynton Ladies III to consolidate seventh spot and stay well clear of the basement pack.

The team's next game is on Saturday, January 9 when they will look to make it three straight wins at home to second bottom Bebbington Ladies.

Another cold and wet Saturday saw Oswestry travel to Brooklands for their last league match before Christmas as they went in pursuit of avenging a 2-1 loss in the reverse fixture.

The pitch was struggling to live up to its all weather billing, with puddles forming in the corners from the start, but it was kept playable with some stirring work by officials and ground staff with brooms throughout the match.

Oswestry were slow to start, and Brooklands took advantage of this with some aggressive play that saw them take the lead in the first five minutes.

The goal seemed to focus the visitors and they really upped their level of play, which led to a complete turnaround in the feel of the game as they dominated possession and were very attacking with the ball.

Their fast flowing, passing game completely outplayed their opponents, and resulted in a multitude of shots from both open play and a series of short corners.

The visitors were also quick to set up their press further frustrating the opposition as they could not clear the ball and were under relentless pressure.

And their efforts bought well-deserved goals from Lisa Bladen and Flos Roberts (her first on returning to the club) to give Oswestry a 2-1 lead.

Despite a number of chances to add further to their goal tally, and an opposition that were becoming increasingly agitated and fighting both amongst themselves and with their umpire, they were unable to add to their tally.

However, the stronger team with the better team performance duly finished on top as they returned home 2-1 victors.

This was a brilliant performance by the visitors in poor conditions, and a great way to head into the Christmas break.

■ Oswestry's men ended the first half of the season in disappointing fashion after failing to raise a side against West Bromwich to remain fifth in the West Midlands Hockey League division one.

With just nine players, they conceded the home game at Marches School, with the visitors handed a 3-0 win.

Despite a bright start to the season, the club have struggled for a full complement of players in recent weeks, and are looking for new recruits to bolster their squad.

So far they have recorded five league wins, had four defeats and one draw, and now take a break before returning to duty on Saturday, January 9 at home to Congleton II in the Raging Bull north west league division four (south) while the third team visit Acton Nomads in the north west league division five (south).

Eagles hope to get back on the pitch

AFTER two washouts, Oswestry's rugby players will be desperate to get back on the pitch at home to lowly Congleton on Saturday as they bid to maintain their challenge in the Cheshire South.

It has been a frustrating fortnight for the border side whose trip to Warrington outfit Eagle was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch last Saturday, after their home clash with Isle of Man side Vagabonds had suffered a similar fate the week before.

They now set their sights on second bottom Congleton after slipping to third spot following their forced lay-off, with Dukinfield the new leaders following their 62-7 hammering of rock bottom Linley.

Manchester Medics have slipped to second after their clash at Lichfield succumbed to the wet weather.

But it is still all to play for with Oswestry just four points off top spot, and with games in hand on the two sides above them.

Meanwhile, Oswestry II are at home to Congleton II in the Raging Bull north west league division four (south) while the third team visit Acton Nomads in the north west league division five (south).

Guils cup tie comes home after deluge

GUILSFIELD have been handed home advantage after their Welsh Cup third round trip to lower league Cwmamman United was postponed a second time due to a waterlogged pitch.

Heavy rain in Carmarthenshire left the Grenig Park pitch in Glanaman saturated, and with little prospect of play despite the efforts of the home club.

The Guils players and officials were already on the bus en route when, six miles into their journey, they were informed that the tie had been called off following an early morning inspection.

Under competition rules, the tie has now been switched to Guilsfield who will be hoping for better weather as they look to make it third time lucky on Saturday (2.30pm).

To have home advantage should boost the villagers who will want to capitalise against their Welsh League visitors to set up a home tie with Welsh Premier side Airbus UK in the fourth round.

But boss Dan Barton knows his players will still need to be at their best despite being spared a long trip to West Wales.

"Our pitch is in good nick, so hopefully we will get it on," he said. "We're now at home which is good, but I'm not sure that home advantage will make that much difference in these cup games.

"We've got a massive prize should we get through to the next round, but we can't look any further than Saturday as there have already been a lot of upsets in the cup, and everybody seems to be beating everybody else.

"I've got a few selection dilemmas, and I'm trying to figure out what to do defensively as we have been conceding a lot of goals."

James Henderson and Nathan Leonard, who would both have missed last weekend, return to bolster the side while Dave Littleford and Ashley Roberts are vying for the goalkeeping jersey.

Guilsfield reserves were also left kicking their heels as their encounter against Berriew reserves in the Village Cup was also postponed.

Leaders Llan face tough weekend test

NEW leaders Llanrhaeadr put their revival to the test in the Spar Mid Wales League division one when they host another of the form sides Knighton Town on Saturday (2pm).

Knighton have swept all before them in recent weeks, including a 4-0 victory at Welshpool that lifted them up to sixth place. So Llan know they will need to show the same kind of resolve that saw them overcome Hay St Mary's in a rain drenched 5-4 thriller last weekend, a victory that took them one point clear.

Welshpool, whose home clash with Llanidloes Town was among those to be postponed due to the weather, face a tough trip to title favourites Penrhyncoch as they look to stay among the leading pack.

Waterloo Rovers bid to consolidate their top five position at home to Bow Street, while at the other end of the table, relegation-haunted Montgomery chase much needed points at Llandrindod Wells.

COBRA fume at Plate postponement

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA were left fuming after their trip Whitland in the second round of rugby's Swalec Plate was called off at the 11th hour.

The Meifod club had just got on the bus to travel to Carmarthenshire when they received a call to say the game was off despite assurances there would be no problems over the pitch.

Players and officials had planned to make a weekend of it with a hotel booked, so had to abort the plans at the last minute – and at some cost.

A COBRA spokesman said the club were "seething" having earlier been told by Whitland officials that the pitch would be playable.

They had little choice but to cancel their hotel bookings, but the fact it was so late, meant that the club still had to pay for some of the rooms.

Clubs have yet to agree on when to rearrange the cup tie, although it must be played before Saturday, January 16.

COBRA, who are battling to escape relegation danger in the Swalec Welsh League division one (north), now turn their thoughts to picking up vital league points when they face a crunch clash away to fellow strugglers Dolgellau on Saturday.

Lying just one point above their hosts, it's a game they can ill afford to lose if they are to give themselves realistic hope of climbing out of the basement zone in the coming months.

Three clubs are languishing adrift, with third bottom Llangefni – who lie two points above COBRA – also in the relegation scrap.

OSWESTRY will be desperate to get back on the pitch at home to lowly Congleton on Saturday (2.15pm) as they bid to maintain their title challenge in the Cheshire South.

It has been a frustrating fortnight for the border side who have suffered two postponements to slip to third spot, but are still just four points off leaders Dukinfield with a game in hand.

SAINTS ARE SET TO ROAR BACK

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

MANAGER Craig Harrison insists The New Saints will be firing on all cylinders as they look to hit back in Friday night's Dafabet Welsh Premier clash with Bala Town at Park Hall (7.45pm).

The Saints were left frustrated by last week's 1-1 home draw with Aberystwyth Town, a result that saw their lead at the top trimmed to nine points following Llandudno's win at Carmarthen.

Although still well placed to land a record 10th league title – and fifth in a row – the league leaders were disappointed not to have sunk the Seasiders.

But, with his side still unbeaten in all competitions this term, Harrison remained upbeat as he looked to bounce back ahead of the busy festive schedule.

"We were disappointed as we want to try to win every game," he said.

"But we were a bit sloppy, and did not show the same quality as we have done in the last three or four games.

Tough game

"We weren't great, our ball retention was poor. But we'll dust ourselves down and work hard to prepare for Bala which is another tough game for us.

"We're in a tough spell of games at the moment, but the players have a lot of desire and hunger and want to keep our run going.

"We had chances against Aber, but overall we did not do enough to win the game, and were not as fluent as we can be.

"It was not for lack of effort and trying – the lads gave everything as they always do – but as a group we lacked that bit of quality which is unusual for us.

"But the key is that, although we did not play well, we did not lose. We're still unbeaten this season and still in a fantastic position."

Matty Williams gives The New Saints an early lead after Aberystwyth keeper Mike Lewis fails to hold a shot from Chris Seargeant in the 1-1 draw at Park Hall. Picture: Brian Jones.

Bala make the trip in third spot and have often provided stern opposition for the Saints. However, they have never won in the 17 meetings between the sides, which have seen 10 wins for TNS and seven draws.

They drew 1-1 at Bangor City in midweek, their first points in the league in almost six weeks following a couple of defeats and two postponements.

The Lakesiders last won in the league back on October 31 when thrashing Port Talbot 5-2, but the other week they prevailed 3-1 at Carmarthen Town in the third round of the Welsh Cup.

Despite mixed fortunes of late, Colin Caton's visitors certainly cannot be taken lightly, having been involved in a goalless draw between the sides in the reverse fixture earlier in the season.

■■■■

TNS under-19s saw their hopes in the NE Wales Youth Cup fall at the first hurdle after suffering a 2-1 exit away to Gap Connah's Quay in round one.

Prestatyn a huge tester for Llanfair

LLANFAIR United look to get back to business when they tackle one of the Cymru Alliance title favourites Prestatyn Town at the Mount Field on Saturday (2pm).

Despite not playing for two weeks, United remain fourth from bottom, and still with everything to play for in their battle for league survival.

But – weather permitting – they face a tough task this weekend against one of the league's big guns Prestatyn who ran out 5-3 winners when the sides met in the Welsh Cup back in October.

"Our boys did well, but we were beaten by a better side," said boss Rhys Stephens.

"At the start of the season, Prestatyn were my tip to win the league, and so far I have seen nothing to change my mind. In the Welsh Cup they were outstanding, I was very impressed with them.

"But we'll be going all out to win, like we always do. We're not good enough to set up and get a 0-0 draw."

Despite Prestatyn's pedigree, Llanfair can take heart after famously winning 4-1 away to the Seasiders in the league earlier in the season

Like the rest of the Cymru Alliance, Llanfair were left kicking their heels last weekend as their clash against Denbigh Town was postponed last weekend, and will be keeping their fingers crossed that their Mount Field pitch can survive the recent deluge.

Meanwhile, United have bolstered their squad by signing the versatile Iain Edmunds from Caersws.

"He can play in a lot of positions, but we're going to play him in midfield," said Stephens.

"He's got a good footballing brain, and will improve us in a lot of ways."

Clarke misses Lions victory with injury

BATSMAN Joe Clarke suffered a frustrating time after missing most of England Lions' T20 series against Pakistan A through injury.

After playing in the first match, the Oswestry teenager was then ruled out of the next four games in Dubai due to a quad strain.

The five-match series proved a closely-fought affair, with England twice hitting back to level at 2-2 before winning yesterday's decider on a Super Over.

Shrewsbury-born Clarke, who broke into the Worcestershire team last season, had earlier attended a two-and-a half-week batting camp in Dubai as part of the England Performance Programme squad.

Clarke, however, had to watch from the sidelines after sustaining the unfortunate injury in the first match last week. It proved a let-down for the lad from Trefonen, but Worcestershire skipper Daryl Mitchell is backing his county team-mate to bounce back from the disappointment.

"Hopefully he will be fit and go away with the Lions again after Christmas," he said. "This is just a minor blip and he will come back strongly.

"Joe is an exciting cricketer and will get plenty of opportunities in the T20."

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